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Consultative Committee Meets To Discuss Economic Union

LD2608161693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Video report by Lyudmila Vilyuga, including recorded remarks by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today in the Belarusian capital there is a session of the CIS Consultative Committee. Deputy prime ministers of the Commonwealth countries are to examine about 20 questions, and first on the agenda will be a point about economic integration.

[Vilyuga] Delegations from the 10 Commonwealth states have come for the session led by their deputy prime ministers. The 19 questions on the agenda essentially boil down to one basic document on the creation of a single economic union, that in a package of accompanying draft agreements, is being prepared for signing at the session of heads of state and government on 7 September. Active debates are now being held on whether there are contradictions in parallel drafting of economic unions of the CIS—a triple one between the Slav states—and also between Belarus and Russia. Before the start of the conference, Aleksandr Shokhin expressed his position on this.

[Begin Shokhin recording] I do not rule out that in the next two weeks the clear contours may be defined of the economic union that may be created in the near future. The fact is, here there is a particular feature. The fact is, the states that are now holding talks with Russia on the use of the ruble as the sole legal tender —that is above all Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan—they are ready to coordinate quite toughly their monetary-credit-financial-budget policy with Russia, and practically by means of these commitments, they are almost fulfilling all the points of the draft agreement that we have drafted with the Ukraine and Belarus. [end recording]

Russia Does Not Want To Split CIS

LD2608163493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 26 TASS—"We would not like to split the CIS and are holding two and three-party talks with republics, trying to invigorate the work to establish a normal and well-functioning union," Russian Vice-Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin said.

Shokhin is participating in a meeting of the CIS Coordinating and Consultative Committee in Minsk. He did not rule out that the contours of an economic union of the CIS states could be defined within the next two weeks. The states which are holding talks on the use of the Russian rouble as the only legal tender (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) are ready to coordinate their credit, monetary, budget and financial policy with Russia. By doing so they will fulfill practically all obligations envisaged by a proposed agreement between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

"It is possible that the two aspects of this work will merge together some time in the near future," Shokhin said.

Economic Union Agreement Drafted

WS2708111893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The CIS Coordination and Consulting Committee has finished the work on the draft agreement on the creation of the CIS economic union. According to Committee Head Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, all the amendments and proposals of the CIS members have been taken into consideration. The draft agreement is ready to be submitted for the consideration of the Council of heads of CIS states and the Council of heads of CIS governments that are scheduled to convene on 7 September in Moscow. Shokhin said that only one issue—the title of the document—has not been resolved. Some Committee members favor the economic union while the others favor the economic community. In the event that the draft agreement is approved at the 7 September meeting, the mechanism of its realization and the following ratification by the CIS legislatures will be formulated by the beginning of 1994, Shokhin added.

Further on Defense, Foreign Ministers' Meetings

Defense Ministers Adopt Decisions

PM2608130993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 1

[Colonel Gennadiy Miranovich "Observer's Notes": "CIS: Military Cooperation on a Realistic Basis"]

[Text] This is how we might formulate the main idea behind the session of the Commonwealth States' Council of Defense Ministers held in Moscow 23-24 August.

First of all it should be noted that the present gathering of leaders of military departments was extremely representative and was thus invested with full powers. The delegations from Belarus, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan were headed by their defense ministers. The armed forces of Armenia and Kazakhstan were represented by their chiefs of general staff. Kyrgyzstan was represented by the chairman of its State Committee for Defense Affairs. The Azerbaijani and Georgian deputy defense ministers and a representative from the Ukrainian Embassy attended in an observer capacity.

Basically, the Joint Armed Forces headquarters had probably never witnessed such an impressive gathering since its founding. And this in itself created an atmosphere of anticipation in the conference room that important decisions would be made, on which would

depend the progress of future cooperation between the people gathered here, the armies they represent, and the future of the High Command itself.

But whatever the topic of discussion, the future of the High Command has long been under a question mark. And in this sense the present Council of Defense Ministers session was a kind of logical continuation of all that had gone before; Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the outgoing commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces who is moving to a new post, candidly confessed that at the present time he can see no real justification for creating CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, who chaired the present session, prefaced the start of the debate with the remark: "Nobody should have any doubts that the Russian Ministry of Defense believes the creation of joint armed forces by all states keen to establish them is the principal long-term objective of military cooperation. But the political situation, normative-legal basis, and economic and military preconditions for implementing this idea do not currently exist."

Naturally, the following question arises: Which organ should in these conditions coordinate the Commonwealth states' joint activity in the military sphere? On the suggestion of the Russian delegation, this question was put forward for discussion first. The debate did not promise to be easy, if only because even the option of simply renaming the High Command would entail reviewing a whole series of CIS legal acts in which it figures. Moreover, there is no unanimous view within the CIS on the prospects for military cooperation between the states. An acceptable solution can only be reached with the help of the Conciliation Commission.

Thus by the afternoon of 24 August it became known that the Joint Armed Forces High Command was to be transformed into a staff for coordinating military cooperation between commonwealth states—a working organ of the CIS Council of Ministers [as published]. It will also operate in the long term, obviously, within the framework of the Collective Security Council, where it is intended to have a general secretary. It is planned to entrust the leadership of the High Command—currently numbering 250 people—together with all its juridical elements to Colonel General Viktor Samsonov.

Decisions have also been worked out regarding the Russian delegation's proposals on measures to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. As suggested, the establishment of coalition defense forces under a unified command is planned as a priority step. These forces are being established for a specific situation in Tajikistan. In the future, of course, groupings of forces such as these could be established at other times and in other circumstances where a threat is apparent. As Lieutenant General Vladimir Zhurbenko, deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, stressed in a short interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, coalition forces are being established solely on the basis of the armies of states that have signed the Collective Security Treaty, with the exception of the Armenian Armed Forces. The coalition forces will be commanded by representatives of the states that have contributed their military formations. It has been proposed that quotas from national armies should not be set in advance, thus giving the signatory states the opportunity to do this themselves depending on the situation.

In this way the participants at the Council of Defense Ministers did their bit. During the afternoon they set off for the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry building where a session of the Commonwealth countries' Council of Foreign Ministers was already under way. The leaders of the foreign policy and military departments will at a joint session initial the decisions that have been worked out; these will then be submitted to the Council of Heads of State for ratification.

Grachev Determines Defense Policy

PM2608143893 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Vyacheslav Kocherov commentary: "Sovereign Soup Is Indigestible"]

[Text] That was the conclusion reached, in the end, by the military ministers of the Commonwealth countries, following the statement by the prime ministers of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine on the formation of an economic union.

Our newspaper has already reported the problems which the [CIS] Council of Defense Ministers intended to discuss at its 23 and 24 August sessions.

However, after the first day of the council's work, there was an impression that it is not the economy that determines policy—including military policy—but the personal view of the Russian defense minister. In his opinion, the Commonwealth members ought to create their own armed forces as quickly as possible, "and until that time, if necessary, set up coalition groupings of forces on salients subject to threat for the duration of the threat." As for the Joint Armed Forces, in Grachev's opinion, at present there exists "neither the appropriate political situation, nor the legal normative basis, nor the economic and military preconditions."

There is every reason to doubt such a peremptory statement by the head of the Russian military department. First, a legal normative basis does exist—the Treaty on Collective Security, which was ratified by all the CIS members. Second, the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command is in operation. Third, the future economic union of Slav states will create the economic preconditions for a firm military alliance, especially since access to it is open to all the republics of the former USSR.

The reason for the Russian defense minister's repudiation of the High Command lies elsewhere, I believe. He has done (remember Shaposhnikov's fate) and will do everything possible to prevent the creation of any kind of organ that would be above him, above the Russian Defense Ministry. And this was again confirmed by the debate over the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command at the Council of Defense Ministers session, where General Grachev proposed reconstituting the High Command as a Committee for the Coordination of Military Cooperation, consisting of two directorates and six sections. And he reserved for Russia the main posts of chairman and chiefs of the directorates and sections.

It is surprising, but true, that nearly all the council members agreed to this proposal, with the exception of the representative of Kazakhstan. Major General Alibek Kasymov, chief of the Main Staff of that republic's Armed Forces, warned his colleagues against decisions that the heads of the CIS were unlikely to support.

Apparently many of the council participants spent the night of 23-24 August deep in thought about the future of the Commonwealth states' military cooperation. It cannot be ruled out that many of them discussed the situation that had arisen with their republics' leaders. At any event, yesterday, in the first 20 minutes after the council session began, a decision was made to set up a staff for the coordination of military cooperation, which for the time being will be headed by Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

On the same day a decision was made on creating a coalition grouping of forces in Tajikistan, in which Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia showed an interest. The grouping will be headed, on the Uzbekistan representative's suggestion, by Col.Gen. Boris Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

So they managed to preserve the main element in the CIS Joint Armed Forces system—the coordinating body, the staff. In the opinion of some participants in the council session, more steps must also be taken in the direction of the formation of the Joint Armed Forces.

Joint Command Abolition 'A Step Backward'

PM2608160093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Viktor Litovkin article: "Defense Ministers Abolish Post of Commander in Chief, But Commonwealth Joint Forces Are Required"]

[Text] The session of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth states has ended in Moscow after two days; the foreign ministers joined in on the last day.

According to tradition, Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov was absent from the meeting. His department was represented by an embassy staffer, but the Russian delegation was headed by Army General Pavel Grachev. This was the first time he had taken part in this event. He chaired the council session.

What decisions did the generals make? First—to abolish the post of CIS JAF [Joint Armed Forces] commander in chief, which, as is well known, was held by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, and to transform the High Command into a Staff for the Coordination of Military Cooperation of the Commonwealth states. The staff will be the working organ of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers. It will be headed by Col.Gen. Viktor Samsonov. The staff's functions and forms of work can be deduced from its title—to coordinate collaboration among CIS power structures, first and foremost those who signed the Treaty on Collective Security.

In order to implement the treaty, the ministers made provision for a special mechanism, the basis for which was proposed by the Russian delegation. It envisages the creation of a CIS Collective Security Council, to include the heads of state, defense and foreign ministers, and the general secretary of the Collective Security Council.

It is suggested that the general secretary of the Collective Security Council will be a civilian, a politician, while the military organs of the Collective Security Council will consist of the Council of Defense Ministers, the Committee of Chiefs of Staff, and the Staff for the Coordination of Military Cooperation. A political committee is also to be set up, consisting of the foreign ministers. In short, the model is very similar to NATO's. We have already given a detailed account of that (IZVESTIYA No. 249, 1992).

The Commonwealth will have common systems of air defense, missile attack warning, space monitoring [kontrol kosmicheskogo prostrantsva]... It was decided not to create Joint Armed Forces for the time being—the conditions are not ripe for it and there are not enough funds. There is a future for the JAF, Pavel Grachev stated, but only after the completion of the formation of national armies.

In the meantime, the defense ministers, together with their colleagues from the Foreign Ministries, decided to create coalition forces to ensure security on the Tajik-Afghan border. They will apparently be commanded by Col.Gen. Boris Pyankov. Only countries that have signed the Treaty on Collective Security will take part. The question of Armenia's presence on that border remains open, as do the quotas and zones of responsibility for each side and their material and financial contribution in defense of the common borders of the CIS.

All this is to be approved at the meeting of Commonwealth heads of state 7 September. But it is already known that the main base for material and technical supplies for the coalition forces will be sited in Dushanbe, and the reserve base in Khorog. Russia will not

send additional contingents into Tajikistan, but will confine itself to the 201st Division alone.

Commenting at IZVESTIYA's request on the decision of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the council, judged them [as published] to be important and necessary on the whole. But he described the conversion of the High Command into a staff as a step backward. It will be necessary to revise and redraft more than 70 international legal acts already adopted by the heads of state and in part ratified by the parliaments. Now everything must be done again, and that will take many months of work and will naturally greatly hold up joint military activity.

At the same time the 250 officers of the CIS JAF High Command need not expect major cadre and organizational upheavals. The majority of them will continue to serve on the Staff for the Coordination of Military Cooperation. And that is good news for them.

Central Asia Delaying Human Rights Pact

PM2608133793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "CIS Countries Will Advance Joint Initiatives at the UN General Assembly Session for First Time"]

[Text] The meeting of CIS foreign ministers in Moscow on 24 August ended with the adoption of eight documents and, in the opinion of Russian delegation members, was the most productive in the Commonwealth's existence.

Eight of the 10 CIS members were represented by their foreign policy department heads. Ukraine and Kazakhstan sent deputy ministers. Delegations from non-Commonwealth Georgia and Azerbaijan attended the conference as observers.

The chief result of the meeting was a decision to set up the Council of CIS Foreign Ministers, which will meet once every three months for consultations on key foreign policy questions. It was also announced that the Commonwealth states will put four joint initiatives to the UN General Assembly session opening in New York in September: These are on combating terrorism and the narcotics trade, environmental protection, and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Kiev's position remains unclear in relation to the last topic. Given that the basic provisions of the document will most likely be at variance with recent Ukrainian parliament decisions, which have questioned the country's non-nuclear status, it is unlikely that Kiev will sign that initiative.

The CIS members officially supported Belarus' candidacy to be a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council. Minsk attaches very great significance to this question. Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko asked Andrey Kozyrev for assistance in this during his recent visit to Moscow.

The final decision will be made by the UN General Assembly. Belarus is to be nominated by the group of East European states, in which its main rival is the Czech Republic. In the opinion of experts on Smolensk Square, despite support for Minsk from its CIS partners preference will, by all accounts, be given to Prague.

According to Russian delegation members, a draft declaration in the human rights sphere was the sole issue to cause disagreement among the session participants. "Although no one raised any fundamental objections, certain Central Asian states have recently been seen to engage in 'surreptitious sabotage' in the form of attempts to delay the signing of the document on various pretexts," a Russian diplomat divulged to journalists. It may be assumed that it was Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan that he primarily had in mind.

ITAR-TASS Press Review for 27 Aug

LD2708090693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 27 ITAR-TASS—"Warsaw got not only Russian gas, but also confirmation that Russia has nothing against its joining NATO," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes today, commenting on the results of President Yeltsin's visit to Poland.

Three years of a relative lull in Russian-Polish relations will be followed by a period of their vigorous development, at least in the economic sphere. Eight major agreements were signed during the visit, of which two are especially important—the agreement on trade and economic cooperation and the intergovernmental agreement on the joint construction of a trunk gas pipeline, which will deliver Russian gas to Frankfurt on the Oder across the territory of Poland. By all appearances, the project will provide employment to many European firms, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, publication of the government, writes that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will pay a working visit to the U.S. between August 29 and September 2. According to the newspaper, a session of the intergovernmental Russia-American commission for cooperation in energy generation and space exploration will be held within the framework of the visit. The commission was created on the decision of the Russian and American presidents during their meeting in Vancouver.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes about a dramatic aggravation of the political situation in the Crimea on the eve of the forthcoming meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents there, who will discuss a wide range of problems dealing with the Black Sea Fleet, the

status of the city of Sevastopol and the Russian-Ukrainian relations in general. According to the information of the newspaper's correspondent, rallies are being held in Sevastopol and Simferopol, leaders of pro-Russian parties and movements are demanding the preservation of the Black Sea Fleet as a single entity, stressing at the same time, that it should be fully Russian, the same as the city of Sevastopol. At the same time, the correspondent learned that a group of admirals and officers of the Ukrainian Navy completed the drawing up of proposals to the Ukrainian president for the forthcoming meeting. In their opinion, the fleet should be divided into two equal parts between Russia and Ukraine, and the Russian part should be removed from Sevastopol.

TRUD writes about the first results of the turning over of land to private owners in Turkmenistan. The newspaper devotes much attention to the results achieved by Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov on his own plot of land. His wheat crop is 22 centners per hectare, which is more than the average figure for the republic. According to TRUD, Niyazov did not get any profit from that crop, because all the grain was turned over to the local research institute.

According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the decision to suspend the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania does not rule out the quest for compromise solutions, but on a just basis. The newspaper points out that, as was found out, Lithuania did present a bill to Russia to the sum of 146 billion U.S. dollars. "This was not done on the initiative of some low-ranking diplomat. According to Vergilius Bulovas, member of the Sejm and head of the Lithuanian official delegation, the document with the demand, which mentioned the estimated sum of the damage, allegedly inflicted to Lithuania by the former USSR since 1940, was handed to the Russian delegation on May 27, 1992."

in the opinion of the newspaper, it is obvious that Lithuania is not rejecting the idea of talks, which is confirmation enough that Lithuanians began to realise: the raising of the problem of the "global compensation of damage" is legally groundless. Russia is also ready for talks, for discussing mutual financial claims with the Lithuanian side. "The word 'mutual' seems to be the key one in this context. It is very much in line with the current style of Russian diplomacy," the newspaper writes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes about Russian-Moldovan relations in connection with the anniversary of Moldova's independence. It carries an interview with Anatol Tsaran, Moldovan ambassador to Russia, who said: "Everybody agrees in Moldova that the current economic crisis is the result, in many ways, of the disruption of traditional links with former union republics. CIS supporters in Moldova regard the new commonwealth only as an economic mechanism which could help restore the broken contacts."

The newspaper publishes comments of many former and present politicians on the problem of who can seize power in Russia and retain it. Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of President Yeltsin, said that "we have every reason for political, moral and state optimism." Yuri Baturin, assistant to the president, believes that no party now stand a real chance of coming to power. "Our society will have allergy to parties for a long time to come. We need more parties, which should be stronger and should enjoy greater confidence of people," he said.

Yeltsin Issues Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina Crisis

LD2608132793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 26 TASS—The press service of Russian President Boris Yeltsin handed over to ITAR-TASS on Thursday [26 August] the following statement made by the Russian leader in connection with the settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

"The process of settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina has entered a very important stage. We have gone an extremely hard way which required the most vigorous efforts of the world community, including Russia, and, more importantly, vitally necessary concessions from all warring sides. As a result, the participants in the Geneva talks have approached a compromise which could put an end to the protracted and bloody Bosnian tragedy.

Russia appeals to the political leaders of the warring factions and the peoples of that long-suffering republic with an urgent call to show political wisdom and decisively step over mutual resentment, reproaches and mistrust and make a final choice in favour of peace in Bosnia and stability in former Yugoslavia and the Balkans," the statement said.

Yeltsin, Havel Sign Friendship, Cooperation Accords

LD2608124393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev, and Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague August 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic today signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic in Prague today.

The treaty stresses the desire of the two countries to draw a final line under their totalitarian past connected with the impermissible use of force against Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the further unjustified presence of Russian troops on Czechoslovak territory.

Both countries pledged to take consistent guidance from principles of sovereign equality, non-use of force or threat of force, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, human rights and basic freedoms, equality and the right of nations to decide their destiny, the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law. The countries will carry on friendly cooperation in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect, partnership and mutual economic benefit. Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Lobov and Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnic signed an intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic relations and scientific and technical cooperation. The agreement stresses that the countries would "extend most favoured treatment to each other with respect to all matters pertaining to trade and economic relations." They will also assist the development of trade relations aiming to step up mutual turnover and services on universally acknowledged commercial terms, including barter transactions.

Treaty on Russian-Czech Relations

LD2608141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] (ITAR-TASS) [dateline as received]—The Russian Federation and the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the contracting parties"), proceed from the traditionally friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries.

They regard the Russian Federation as the successor state of the USSR, and the Czech Republic as one of the successor states of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

They proceed from the profound political and economic changes that have taken place in both states, in Europe and the world.

They are convinced that mutual respect and cooperation between both states are in the interests of the peoples of the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic and that they help to strengthen peace and security and cooperation in Europe and to establish qualitatively new relations, based on equality.

They regard territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of all states as an inalienable part of a new and peaceful order in Europe.

They are guided by the principles of international law, above all the principles of the UN Charter. They abide by the commitments given within the framework of the CSCE and the Paris Charter for a new Europe. They promote the transformation of Europe into a continent of peace, security, democracy, and prosperity.

They stress the importance of unswerving respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the principles of democracy, humanism, and the rule-of-law state.

They wish to draw a line once and for all under the totalitarian past, connected with the unacceptable use of force against Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the subsequent unjustified presence of Soviet forces on Czechoslovak territory, the material consequences of which were settled in the agreement dated 1 April 1992.

They proceed from the provisions of the Russian-Czechoslovak Joint Declaration on Principles of Mutual Relations and Cooperation dated 14 May 1991.

On the basis of the above they have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The contracting parties will develop their relations as friendly states. They will consistently follow the principles of sovereign equality, non use of force or threat of force, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of conflicts, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect of human rights and basic freedoms, equality, and the right of nations to determine their destiny, and thorough adherence to responsibilities with regard to international law. They will cooperate in a spirit of friendship, mutual respect, understanding, partnership, and mutual economic benefit.

Article 2

The contracting parties will strictly respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Article 3

The sides to the Treaty undertake to tackle all disputes that might arise between them exclusively by peaceful means. They will refrain from the threat of force or use of force against the territorial integrity and independence of the other side to the treaty, and also from any other actions incompatible with the aims and principles of the UN Charter, and the Final Act, and other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE].

Article 4

The sides to the Treaty confirm that security is indivisible and that their security is unbreakably linked with the security of all states belonging to the CSCE.

They will promote by every means the strengthening of security and development of cooperation in Europe with the aim of creating an effective all-European system of security. For these purposes, they will support the formation and activity of permanent institutions and bodies of the CSCE and promote in every way the creation of a single all-European space in all its dimensions.

Article 5

The contracting parties will hold regular consultations at various levels aimed at providing for the further development and extension of bilateral relations and the exchange of opinions on international issues.

The high level and summit meetings will, as a rule, be held annually as considered necessary and expedient.

The foreign affairs ministers will hold regular consultations on issues of mutual interest.

Regular meetings are envisaged between the heads of other ministries and departments of both contracting parties.

Article 6

Consultations will be held without delay if requested by one of the contracting parties that considers that its security interests might be under threat. Both contracting parties will strive to agree on suitable measures to overcome the situation which has taken shape.

If, in the opinion of one of the contracting parties, a threat to peace or international tension is developing, they will inform one another about the possible ways of settling the dispute and of stabilizing the situation.

Article 7

The contracting parties will actively promote the process of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, and conventional disarmament; the further limitation of armed forces and armaments in Europe; the strengthening of measures of confidence and security on bilateral and multilateral bases; as well as the creation of strong structures of European security.

They will contribute to lowering the level of armed forces and armaments to a level sufficient for defense only by way of obligatory and efficiently monitored agreements.

The contracting parties will interact in the interests of deepening confidence and security and for these purposes will develop mutually beneficial cooperation and contacts in the military sphere.

Article 8

The contracting parties will intensify collaboration within the framework of international organizations and institutions, especially European. They will assist each other in developing cooperation with international organizations and establishments of which one of the contracting parties is a member.

Article 9

The contracting parties will create the right conditions for direct relations and cooperation at the level of the republic, the kray, the oblast, and other administrative units of territory, towns, and populated centers on all questions within their competence.

Special attention will be paid to broadening interparliamentary contacts.

The contracting parties will assist in developing contacts between people, political parties and movements, trade unions, churches, religious associations, sports, tourist, and other organizations and unions.

Youth exchanges will have the wholehearted support of both contracting parties.

The contracting parties will encourage efforts toward deeper mutual acquaintance and understanding and toward overcoming various prejudices.

Article 10

The contracting parties will participate, as far as they are capable, in the creation and maintenance of favorable conditions for the economic and social development of Europe and will help to overcome the division of Europe including in the economic sphere.

Article 11

The contracting parties will promote the development of mutually advantageous economic and trade cooperation.

In accordance with their legislation and international treaties to which they are party, the contracting parties will create favorable economic, financial, and juridical conditions for entrepreneurial and other economic activity, including boosting and protecting reciprocal capital investment, and will not employ discriminatory measures in mutual economic cooperation.

Article 12

The contracting parties will promote the development of the appropriate conditions for effective cooperation in the field of fundamental and applied sciences, advanced engineering, and technology.

Article 13

The contracting parties will cooperate in the sphere of transport and other communication systems, including the improvement of transit communications.

They will develop cooperation in the electronic processing of data and expand and improve telecommunication links and postal communications, making them compatible with each other.

Article 14

The contracting parties will boost cooperation in protection and improvement of the environment, in prevention of transnational pollution, in rational and thrifty use of natural resources, in expansion of ecologically clean production, and in implementation of highly effective measures to preserve and restore the environment.

They will strive to develop a coordinated strategy for international and regional preservation of the environment, the objective of which will be stable development throughout Europe.

Article 15

The sides to the Treaty will give mutual assistance in averting catastrophes and in eliminating the aftermath of natural disasters and grave accidents.

Article 16

The sides to the Treaty will take the necessary measures to step up cooperation in the field of power engineering with the use of resource-saving technologies.

Article 17

The sides to the treaty will develop cooperation in the field of education, culture, and art.

Acting upon the traditions of cultural links, they will ensure their citizens broad access to the treasures of the culture of the other side to the Treaty and will support relevant state, public and individual initiatives. They will promote in every way the expansion of exchanges between creative collectives, cultural figures, experts, and institutions of culture and education at state, regional and local levels.

They will encourage the study of the languages of the other side to the Treaty, including at schools and higher educational establishments.

They will encourage cooperation between educational establishments of all types and levels and between scientific research institutes by means of exchange of pupils, students, teachers, and scientific workers, and also by means of joint events and projects.

Each side to the Treaty will give support to the activity on its territory of the informational and cultural centers of the other side to the Treaty and ensure to this end the necessary organizational and legal conditions.

The sides to the Treaty will, within the framework of their legislation, ease access to the archives, libraries, scientific institutions, and similar organizations.

Article 18

The contracting parties will provide mutual support in conserving and studying the cultural and artistic heritage of their countries, including the conservation of historical and cultural monuments.

Article 19

The contracting parties will facilitate the development of cooperation and exchanges in communications and promote contacts between organizations and representatives of mass media.

Article 20

The contracting parties will develop multilateral cooperation in health care, in particular, in joint protection against infectious and other diseases.

They will strive for the optimal cooperation in matters of social provisions.

Article 21

Each of the contracting parties will take care of military cemeteries and military memorials of the other contracting party on its territory and their conservation and accessibility.

The parties will cooperate in locating and conserving places of burial of citizens from the other contracting party and exchange information about the fate of those who had died or had gone missing on their territory.

Article 22

The contracting parties will cooperate in the fight against infringements of the law, especially organized crime, terrorism, the illegal trade in drugs and psychotropic substances, attacks on the safety of air communications, hostage-taking, and smuggling, including the movement across the border of weapons, works of art, and also items of cultural and historical value in violation of established procedure.

The contracting parties will cooperate on matters of reciprocal legal aid in civil, family, and criminal cases, and also on extradition matters.

Article 23

In accordance with the provisions of the document of the Copenhagen meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE of 29 June 1990 and other international documents, the contracting parties will encourage the participation of national and ethnic minorities in the life of society and create favorable conditions for the development of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity.

Article 24

Citizens of a contracting party staying on the territory of the other contracting party are guaranteed the rights and main freedoms proceeding from the universal declaration of human rights, legislation, and international treaties with the participation of the contracting party on whose territory they are residing or staying.

Article 25

The Treaty is not directed against anybody. It does not involve the rights and obligations of the contracting parties stemming from the bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements that they concluded with other states and that are currently in effect.

Article 26

This Treaty is subject to ratification and will come into force on the day that ratification documents are exchanged. Once that happens, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic of 6 May 1970 will cease to be effective.

This Treaty is being concluded for a period of 10 years, but on each occasion it will be extended for a further period of five years, unless one of the contracting parties notifies the other in writing, no later than one year before the appropriate expiry date, of its intention to withdraw from the Treaty.

This Treaty will be registered with the UN Secretariat in accordance with Article 102 of the UN Charter.

Enacted in Prague on 26 August 1993 in two copies, one in Russian and one in Czech, each of which have identical validity.

[Signed] B.N. Yeltsin, for the Russian Federation

V. Havel, for the Czech Republic

Yeltsin, Slovak President Kovac Sign Friendship Treaty

LD2608183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1806 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Beskromnyy, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Bratislava August 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Slovak President Michal Kovac signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation in Bratislava on Thursday [26 August].

The ten-year treaty is based on traditional friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and radical political and economic changes in Russia, Slovakia, Europe and the world.

The document calls for close cooperation in all spheres of bilateral relations and interaction in the international arena. The treaty denounces anti-human essence of totalitarianism which led to the violation of the principles of international law in 1968.

Yeltsin, Kovac Hold News Conference

LD2608190793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1852 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Beskromnyy, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennady Talalayev]

[Text] Bratislava August 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that East European countries have become an "object of special attention for Russia."

Speaking at a news conference in Bratislava on Thursday [26 August] devoted to the results of his brief visit to Slovakia, Yeltsin said that "the time when the former Soviet Union differentiated countries by their population and territory has passed." "A new Slovak state has been created by the will of the Slovak people. There is a new Russia which is building its relations—this is emphasised in the treaty which we have just signed with Michal Kovac—on a mutually advantageous basis, with respect for each other."

Asked about difficulties in relations with East European countries, Yeltsin said "the biggest difficulty is that Russia and, for example, Slovakia have no mutual legal basis. We begin practically from scratch. Today we signed the first document. But we need to sign 50, 60, 70 and maybe more."

Another problem is the lack of an effective mechanism for control over the implementation of bilateral agreements.

Speaking about the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Slovakia, Slovak President Michal Kovac said that it not only "declares the efforts of Russia and Slovakia to develop mutual cooperation, but also facilitates the establishment of an all-Europe security system." He warned against attempts to divide Europe into two camps.

"Developing relations with Russia is in no contradiction with integrating into Europe," he said.

Treaty on Russian-Slovak Relations

LD2608190493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic]

[Text] 26 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic (henceforth "the Contracting Parties");

drawing on the traditional friendly relations between the peoples of both countries;

bearing in mind that the Russian Federation is the successor state to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Slovak Republic is one of the legal successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic;

proceeding from the profound political and economic changes in both states, in Europe and in the world;

believing that mutual respect and cooperation between both states are in the interests of the peoples of the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic, and serve to consolidate peace, security, and cooperation in Europe, and to create qualitatively new relations, based on equality;

regarding the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of all states as an inalienable part of the new peaceful structure in Europe;

abiding by the norms of international law, and primarily by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations Organization, and honoring the commitments made within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Paris Charter for a New Europe, and assisting the transformation of Europe into a continent of peace, security, democracy, and prosperity;

emphasizing the significance of unswerving respect for human rights and for basic freedoms, and [the significance] of the principles of democracy, humanism, and the law-governed state;

condemning the anti-humane essence of totalitarianism, wishing to draw a line once and for all under the totalitarian past, which also manifested itself in the trampling of the principles of international law in 1968, and in the subsequent unjustified presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory, the material consequences of which were settled by the agreement of 1 April 1992, and declaring their determination to build bilateral relations on the foundation of the positive values in the history of both peoples and states;

taking into account the Soviet-Czechoslovak Declaration of 26 February 1990, and drawing on the provisions of the Russian-Czechoslovak Joint Declaration on the Principles of Mutual Relations and Cooperation of 14 May 1991;

have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The parties to the Treaty will develop their relations as friendly states, cooperating in the spirit of mutual respect, mutual understanding, and partnership. They will consistently be guided by the principles of sovereign equality, nonuse of force, or the threat of force, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes, noninterference in internal affairs, the observation of human rights and basic liberties, equality of rights and the right of peoples to determine their own fates, conscientious fulfillment of obligations under international law.

Article 2

The parties to the Treaty commit themselves to resolve all disputes which may arise between them solely by peaceful means. They will refrain from the threat of force or the use of force against the territorial integrity and independence of the other party to the Treaty, and also from any other actions incompatible with the aims and principles of the UN Charter, the [Helsinki] Final Act, and other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Article 3

Consultations are to be held immediately at the request of one of the Contracting Parties should it be thought that the interests of its security may be under threat. Both the Contracting Parties will be striving to reach agreement on appropriate measures to overcome the situation that has taken shape.

In the event of a threat to peace, or in the event of international tension arising, in the opinion of one of the Contracting Sides, they will inform one another of possible ways of settling the dispute and stabilizing the situation.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties will hold regular consultations at various levels for the purpose of providing for the further development and deepening of their bilateral relations, and the exchange of views on international issues.

Summit meetings will be held not less than once a year, taking into account need and expediency.

Ministers of foreign affairs will hold regular consultations on issues of mutual interest.

The Contracting Parties will promote systematic meetings of the heads of other ministries and departments in their states.

Article 5

The contracting parties confirm that security is indivisible and that their security is linked to the security of all the member states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

They will take every step to promote the strengthening of security and the development of cooperation in Europe in order to create an effective pan-European security system. They will support the formation of permanent institutions and bodies of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and lend support to their activities and assist in every way in the creation of a single pan-European space in all its dimensions.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties will actively encourage the process of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, and also conventional disarmament, the further limitation of Armed Forces and armaments in Europe, and the strengthening of confidence-building and security measures on a bilateral and multilateral basis, as well as the creation of stable structures of pan-European security.

The Contracting Parties will cooperate in the interests of deepening trust and security, and to these ends they will develop mutually-advantageous cooperation and contacts in the military sphere.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties will deepen their cooperation within international organizations and institutions, particularly European ones. They will assist one another in the development of cooperation with international organizations and institutions, of which one of the Contracting Parties is a member.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties will provide favorable conditions for direct relations and cooperation at the level of republics, oblasts, regions, towns, and settlements in all issues relating to their competence.

Special attention will be given to developing interparliamentary links.

The Contracting Parties will assist the development of contacts between people, political parties and movements, trade unions, churches, religious associations, sporting, touristic, and other organizations and alliances.

Youth exchanges will have the full support of both Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties will encourage efforts aimed at deepening mutual knowledge and mutual understanding.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties will participate, in accordance with their capabilities, in creating and maintaining favorable conditions for Europe's economic and social development. They will jointly and independently oppose possible attempts to make new divisions of Europe in the economic and social spheres.

Article 10

The Contracting Parties shall work together to develop mutually- beneficial economic and trade cooperation.

Pursuant to their legislation and international treaties to which they are signatories, the Contracting Parties shall create favorable economic, financial, and legal conditions for economic activity, including support for trade and entrepreneurship and protection of investments, and shall not apply discriminatory measures in their mutual economic cooperation.

Article 11

The Contracting Parties shall promote the creation of conditions conducive to effective cooperation in fundamental and applied sciences, and in advanced techniques and technologies.

In this respect, particular attention shall be paid to exchange of experience, and to effective cooperation in the conversion of defense industries.

Article 12

The parties to the Treaty will take the necessary measures to intensify cooperation in the sphere of power engineering, using resource-saving technologies.

Article 13

The parties to the Treaty will cooperate in the sphere of transport, other communications systems, including improving transit transport.

They will develop cooperation in the sphere of improving telecommunications and postal communications.

The parties will promote the expansion of cooperation in the sphere of electronic data processing.

Article 14

The parties to the Treaty will step up cooperation in the sphere of protecting and improving the state of the environment, preventing cross-border pollution, rational and resource-saving use of nature, the expansion of the sphere of ecologically clean production facilities, and the conduct of high-efficiency nature protection measures.

Article 15

The parties to the Treaty will provide mutual aid in preventing catastrophes and in eliminating the consequences of natural disasters and major accidents.

Article 16

The Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in education, culture and the arts.

Drawing on their traditions in cultural links, they shall ensure that their citizens enjoy extensive access to the cultural values of the other Contracting Party and shall support appropriate state, public, and individual initiatives. They shall do all in their power to expand exchanges between arts groups, cultural activists and specialists, and cultural and educational establishments at state, regional, and local levels.

They shall encourage study of the language of the other Contracting Party, including in schools and at further education establishments.

They shall encourage cooperation between educational establishments of all types and levels, and between science and research institutes as a means of exchanging pupils, students, teachers, and researchers and of pursuing joint measures and projects.

Each Contracting Party shall on its own territory support informational activities and highlight the culture of the Contracting Party.

The Contracting Parties, within the confines of their legislation, shall provide reciprocal access to archives, libraries and other such organizations.

Article 17

The Contracting Parties shall assist each other to preserve and study their respective cultural and artistic heritages, including preservation of historical and cultural landmarks.

Article 18

The Contracting Parties will within the framework of their legislation facilitate the development of cooperation and exchanges in the sphere of information, and encourage contacts between institutions and representatives of the mass information media.

Article 19

The Contracting Parties will develop all-round cooperation in the field of health care and social security.

Article 20

Each of the Contracting Parties will ensure that the servicemen's graves and servicemen's memorials of the other Contracting Party in its territory will be cared for, preserved, and kept accessible.

The parties will cooperate also in the establishment and maintenance of burial sites for citizens of the other Contracting Party, and in the exchange of information on the fate of those who have died or are missing in their territories.

Article 21

The parties to the treaty will cooperate in the fight against violations of the law, in particular against organized crime, terrorism, illegal dealing in narcotics and psychotropic substances, infringements against the safety of transport and communications, the seizure of hostages, smuggling, including transporting weapons, works of art, and also articles of cultural and historical value across borders in violation of established procedures . The parties to the Treaty will cooperate on questions of mutual legal help on civil, family, and criminal cases and also on questions of extradition.

Article 22

In accordance with the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 29 June 1990, and other international documents, the parties to the Treaty will encourage the participation of national and ethnic minorities in the life of society, and create favorable conditions for the development of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity.

Article 23

Citizens of one of the parties to the Treaty staying or living on the territory of the other party to the Treaty are guaranteed the rights and basic liberties stemming from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, and the legislation of the party to the Treaty on the territory of which they are living or staying.

Article 24

This Treaty is not directed against anyone. It shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties arising from existing bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements concluded between them and other states.

Article 25

This Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the day of exchange of protocols of ratification. Simultaneously thereto, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic dated 6 May 1970 shall cease to apply in

relations between the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic. This Treaty is concluded for a term of 10 years, and shall be extended for subsequent terms of five years, should neither Contracting Party notify the other in written form at least one year prior to the end of the current term of its intent that the Treaty should lapse.

Done in Bratislava in duplicate, each copy in the Russian and Slovak languages, each text being of equal force.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, for the Russian Federation

M. Kovac, for the Slovak Republic

Ministers Sign Military Agreement

LD2608175293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Beskromnyy, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Bratislava August 26 TASS—Russia and Slovakia signed an agreement on military and technical cooperation in Bratislava on Thursday [26 August].

The agreement was signed by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and his Slovak counterpart Imrich Andrejcak.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS, Grachev described his talks with Andrejcak as "very successful." He said that originally it had been planned to sign the agreement during the Slovak defence minister's visit to Moscow on September 2-3. "But the working visit of President Yeltsin changed our plans and allowed (us) to sign it today here," Grachev said.

The document "covers all spheres of military cooperation, including supplies of equipment, weapons and spare parts," Grachev said.

Speaking about the problem of mutual payments, Grachev said that "at the request of the Slovak side, they will be set off against Russia's debt to Slovakia."

Further on Yeltsin Visit to Eastern Europe

WA2708114393

For reportage on the visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, including reports on his talks with the respective prime ministers, please see the Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia sections of the 25 August East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Afghan Ambassador Cited on Hostage Crisis

LD2608210193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent S. Sokolova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sokolova] A consignment of medical supplies to fight the cholera epidemic, and intended for refugees from Tajikistan in the adjoining territory, was handed over today by Russian political parties of a democratic persuasion to Afghanistan's Ambassador to Russia, (Abdul Wahab Asefi) [name and title as received].

At a news conference held at the Afghan embassy (Abdul Wahab Asefi) stated that the Afghanistan Government is ready to help in every way to achieve a settlement of the situation in Tajikistan, but unfortunately, the Afghan ambassador stressed, there are groups on the territory of Tajikistan who are opposed to good-neighborly relations between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and say that Afghanistan is constantly interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. He also refuted information that General Dostum's Army was waging combat actions against Tajik refugees.

[Begin (Asefi) recording, with superimposed Russian translation] The Republic of Afghanistan has set conditions for all Armed Forces in the vicinity of the Afghan-Tajik border, and ordered them not to interfere in the affairs of the adjoining state, and General Dostum's Army is fully subordinated to the officials in Kabul. [end recording]

[Sokolova] (Abdul Wahab Asefi) once again assured journalists that the Russian border guards who have been taken hostage in Afghanistan cannot be returned, because they are still located in relatively inaccessible mountain terrain. In the near future, the ambassador said, the Afghan authorities will be ready to hand the hostages over to the Russian leadership.

Foreign Ministry Official Cited

LD2608212593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Today the Russian Foreign Ministry has more detailed information about the situation in Tajikistan, and on the Tajik-Afghan border. It is the Foreign Ministry that prepares a round-up every night for the country's leadership. We telephoned Leonard Nikolayevich (Mazhkovtsev), head of the ministry's Central Asia Department, and this is what he reported.

[Begin (Mazhkovtsev) recording] Today we can say the following. The situation on the border remains complex. We are receiving verified reports that Tajik opposition fighters and Afghan Mojahedin are continuing to concentrate on the far side [of the border]; that armored equipment is being reinforced; that attempts are continuing to penetrate the border, although by small groups—for instance, on 24 August, on the section of the 12th Pyanj Border Detachment's outpost. On the night of 24 August the eighth outpost was fired on from automatic weapons and machine guns. Two of our border guards were injured.

Our side is taking measures to further reinforce the border outposts, through the channels of both the border guards and the 201st Motorized Rifle Division.

As far as the situation in the country is concerned, winter is approaching, and within one and a half months Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast will be cut off from the central region. Therefore, efforts are now being concentrated on delivering the maximum quantity of foodstuffs, fuels, and lubricants to this mountainous region in the shortest possible time. There are difficulties there as well, since in some sections, that are not on the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan, there are still small groups roaming that are organizing attacks.

A few days ago a bridge was blown up 81 kilometers along the road from Dushanbe to Khojand. The bridge is quite big, 31 meters, and it is the main supply route between the capital and this important industrial center. Intensive work is now under way to repair it, and traffic is following a different route.

In political life, we welcomed the arrival in Dushanbe of Mr. Kittani, the UN secretary general's special envoy. He was received, as far as we know, by Imamali Sharipovich Rakhmanov. We await his arrival in Moscow and a conversation in the Foreign Ministry.

A very interesting and, I believe, positive factor is the fact that the leadership of the neighboring Hatlon oblast is now in Gorno-Badakhshan. The restoration of links between labor collectives will of course promote the restoration of friendly relations with the Pamir people.

Incidentally, I must say, since I am talking with representatives of the media, that on (?23) August our media disseminated a report on serious disagreements between the Gorno-Badakhshan leadership and the central government. I have in front of me the full text of a letter from (?Garibsho) Shabozov, chairman of the oblast soviet, and (Zamirov), chairman of the Executive Committee, which says: We earnestly ask you to stop broadcasting such information aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region. I feel deep distress when I read unverified information in our press, all the more so when it concerns the situation in the trouble spots.

[Unidentified correspondent] Leonard Nikolayevich, may I ask you one question concerning the position of the central Afghan government toward the Tajik conflict. It seems to me that here too, not everyone has an understanding of the demarcation between the positions of the government, and of certain Afghan groups that support the Tajik opposition.

[(Mazhkovtsev)] It is difficult for me to speak about the position of the government, because of certain internal political complications that exist in Kabul. I can only speak about the position of the Afghan foreign minister, which he declared during his visit to Dushanbe. The position is that relations should be actively developed between the two neighboring countries in favor of a normalization of the situation on the border, and in favor of the holding of any form of political talks and contacts. At the same time, he recognized that there are regions and combat groups in the north of Afghanistan that are not under the control of the central authorities. Their actions cannot always be corrected by the local authorities, and that is the problem. [end recording]

[Announcer] Leonard Nikolayevich (Mazhkovtsev), head of the Central Asia Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, was answering questions from a Mayak correspondent.

Russia 'Taking All Possible Measures'

LD2608163393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Russia is taking all possible measures for the soonest possible release of four Russian and one Kazakh border guards captured on the Tajik-Afghan border by Mujahideen on August 10, a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

To this end, Moscow has established a contact with Kabul. The Russian consul-general in Mazar-i-Sharif is also taking necessary measures. Iran, Pakistan and the United States supporting Russia's efforts have been involved, the source said. However the delay in the release of the border guards causes "bewilderment." Moreover the Afghan side has not so far announced its terms of release, the source said. It added that the Afghan ambassador to Moscow believes the problem is of a "purely technical nature."

The source did not rule out the possibility that the problem would be solved during Tajik Parliament Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov's upcoming visit to Afghanistan scheduled for late August.

Hostages Reportedly Moved to Kabul

LD2708100093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The Kazakh officer and four Russian border guards taken hostage by a group of armed people in a Pamirs border village on August 10 have been removed to Kabul from the area near the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan where they were previously held, ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources on Friday [27 August].

'Refuseniks' Appear in Russian Units in Tajikistan

LD2608214793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent Konstantin Tochilin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Tochilin] According to the commander of the 201st Russian Division stationed in Tajikistan, the confrontation of armed groups in the area of the Afghan border continues. In the direct vicinity of border post No. 14 of the Moscow Border Detachment, fighting is going on between gangs of Afghan Mojahedin, Tajik opposition fighters, and subunits of the Border Brigade of Afghan General Dostum. But the Russian border guards are in full control of the situation.

However, in the Russian units the first refuseniks have appeared from among those who came to Dushanbe under contract. In the opinion of the Division Command it is chiefly the Military Command staff that are to blame for this, having promised those under contract more than 3,000 rubles a month. In fact it turned out to be much less. Yet it is the 201st Division that people pin their hopes on for stabilization in the republic; although that stabilization is still far off.

Of late, 3,500 medical workers have left Tajikistan. Of them, 1,300 are qualified doctors. More than 80 hospitals and clinics have been destroyed and about 800 ambulances have been hijacked.

Defense Paper Welcomes Tougher Stance on Lithuania

PM2608182193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Oleg Odnokolenko: "You May Not Like Russia, But You Still Have To Respect It. Decision To Suspend Withdrawal of Russian Troops From Lithuania Does Not Rule Out Search for Compromise Solutions, But on a Just Basis"]

[Text] It now emerges that Lithuania did actually present Russia with a bill for 146 billion U.S. dollars. And this was certainly not done on the initiative of some minor diplomat. According to the statement of Seimas member Vergilius Bulovas, head of the Lithuanian state delegation, a document bearing this demand—a reckoning of the damages allegedly inflicted on Lithuania by the former USSR since 1940—was handed to the Russian Federation delegation back on 27 May 1992. True, Bulovas then makes the reservation that the new Lithuanian delegation made no further reference to this sum in any draft document, consigning it to oblivion.

But it emerges that, for Lithuania's official representatives, oblivion is a highly specific matter. It turns out that a new method of calculating the "Russian debt" is now being worked out. A new sum will probably be revealed, but whether larger or smaller, no one knows. Everything will presumably depend on the current political situation. But there is no doubt that this factor is present.

It is perhaps not superfluous to recall how, and in what circumstances, Russia was presented with this notorious bill. Lithuania's leaders at that time incontestably took advantage in ungentlemanly fashion of the, let us say, "over-civilized" stance of the Russian side. Incidentally, nowadays even Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuania's minister of national defense, acknowledges that all these "money problems" and the ensuing suspension of the Russian troop withdrawal are the "result of our internal intrigues, since the squabbles of political parties and their desire to discredit their political opponents has become more important for them than the state's strategic interests."

Of course, how Butkevicus relates to Russia's new stance is his personal affair. But it would appear that the firmness displayed by the Russian side in this instance has taken effect nevertheless. It is already obvious that Lithuania is not breaking off talks even on these terms, and this is confirmed of itself—by and large the Lithuanians have been aware from the outset that the issue of "wholesale compensation for damages" is not lawful. Russia is also ready, Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister has stated, to discuss mutual financial claims with the Lithuanian side. But probably the key word in this formula is "mutual." It is more in keeping with the current style of Russian diplomacy.

In Churkin's opinion, "Latvia and Estonia, with whom a complex negotiation process on the withdrawal of troops also lies ahead, have been able to exert some pressure" on Vilnius's policy vis-a-vis Russia. Indeed, as early as Wednesday a fairly unambiguous statement on the subject of the suspension of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania ensued from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But, as the saying goes, the train has left the station, and one would like to believe that our Baltic negotiating partners will have less cause to consider Russia feeble and weak-willed. Still less to try to dictate any terms to us.

Academician on Troop Withdrawal, U.S. 'Gunboat' Policy

PM2608115693 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Gunboat Policy Does Not Suit Russia. Academician Arbatov Believes That Suspending Troop Withdrawal From Lithuania Is Not in Russia's Democratic Interests, But This Decision Was Provoked by Lithuanian Authorities' Intractability and Excessive Demands"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has issued a statement regarding the suspension of the Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania. Expressing regret over this, the State Department stressed that the United States consistently advocates the unconditional, full withdrawal of Russian troops from all three Baltic republics. "We very much hope," the document says, "that the leaders of the Russian and Lithuanian Governments will attach top priority to resolving the remaining questions linked with the full withdrawal of the 2,000-3,000 Russian troops from Lithuania by 31 August, as agreed."

However, this subject was treated more brusquely in THE WASHINGTON POST and later in AP articles. Reports citing "high-ranking officials within the Clinton administration" appeared in the press saying that "U.S. laws demand an end to any nonhumanitarian aid to Russia if its troops remain in the Baltic states after 6 October." In particular, an anonymous official White House staffer said: If the remaining Russian troops in Lithuania are not withdrawn from the republic by that date, according to U.S. legislation Moscow will lose around $700 million, which Washington intended to give it in technical aid.

Should this be seen as a threat? State Department spokesman M. McCurry could not answer this blunt question, saying that Washington had for starters conveyed U.S. concern during direct diplomatic contacts with the Russians.

According to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov met with Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador in Moscow, on 24 August. They discussed the details of Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's coming visit to the United States. The Foreign Ministry did not tell us whether the interlocutors discussed this topic. Nor was a reaction to the State Department's statement forthcoming from diplomats; it is a complex issue and must be studied, they said.

Academician Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute, assessed the events differently. When asked "Is the United States right to link the provision of technical aid with the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic?", he said straightaway: "Indisputably. This was, after all, a condition laid down in the U.S. Congress' ruling."

"Russia should act on the premise that the troops will have to be withdrawn in any case," the academician explained. "They cannot be kept there on the grounds that the local authorities are violating our compatriots' rights. That would contravene previous accords and might be seen as an occupation. It is another matter if there is nowhere to put the units that are being withdrawn. But in that case talks must be held and the contentious issues resolved peacefully. Only that approach will meet with support and understanding from the West and the world community. And the gunboat policy that Washington preached in the past ill becomes democratic Russia."

Academician Arbatov went on to stress that he would not put all the blame for the suspension of the troop withdrawal on Moscow alone and reserve all the credit for Vilnius. The Lithuanian authorities' intractability and their excessive demands also provoked this decision. However, leaving troop units on someone else's territory contrary to a previous agreement is no solution. Moreover, this step plays into the hands of extreme nationalist forces in both Lithuania and Russia and may impel them to take vigorous action.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Arab-Israeli Peace Talks

LD2608203493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], the senior representative of the PLO, has visited Moscow the capital of Russia. Viktor (?Khogeditze) the official responsible at the Foreign Ministry spoke to our correspondent about his talks at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[(?Khgeditze) in Russian, fading to Arabic report] Mr. Viktor (?Khgeditze] says that detailed consultations were held at the Russian Foreign Ministry on the 26 August with Mr. Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and chairman of the Supreme PLO Peace Committee. Such consultations have become traditional, and members of the Palestinian leadership hold almost every month similar contacts with the Russian representatives. Abu-Mazin has come to Moscow this time on the eve of the regular bilateral Arab- Israeli negotiations in Washington, the current state of which was the main topic of his talks in Moscow.

The Palestinian representative spoke about the Palestinian delegation s plan for the next round. No doubt Abu-Mazin was interested in Moscow's attitude vis-a-vis the emerging situation in the negotiations, and in our views regarding the prospects of the peace process.

As a result of these consultations, the Russian side had the impression that the Palestinian side intends to take a constructive and decisive stand in regard to the statement on the general principles for the settlement, that has been the subject of discussion by the Palestinians and the Israelis for a long time under the sponsorship of the United States and Russia.

The agenda also includes a discussion of the plan known as [word indistinct] and Ariha, and the question of handing over authority to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, before reaching long-term agreements in regard of the Palestinian autonomy during the transitional period. All of these questions should be discussed within the framework of the discussions on the statement on the general principles of the settlement.

Viktor (?Khgeditze) went on to say: We believe that Abu-Mazin's visit to Moscow was very fruitful and that the outcome of the consultations raises hope. There are now bases for guarded optimism in the predictions about the course of the peace negotiations.

This was the view point of Viktor (?Khgeditze) the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry in his interview with the Radio Moscow Arab Service correspondent.

Aides See Premier's View on Kurils as 'Purely Emotional'

PM2608131793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 93 Second Edition p 1

[Report by Boris Reznik: "Viktor Chernomyrdin Confirms Once Again His Own Particular Stance on the Kurils Issue"]

[Text] Khabarovskiy Kray — Speaking in Khabarovsk, the final port of call on his four-day tour of the Far East, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin again confirmed, as he had done on Sakhalin and on the Kurils, his own particular opinion on the issue of the northern territories. He said that the problem does not exist in relations between Russia and Japan, because the Russian government does not intend to "give anything away to anyone."

Judging by Boris Yeltsin's reaction at his 19 August press conference, the premier's statement came as a complete surprise to him. Answering a question put by Japanese journalists, the president did his best to make Chernomyrdin's pronouncement sound less categorical. Now Viktor Chernomyrdin has again clearly and unmistakably nullified the many years of diplomatic efforts by the Russian side, trying to build relations with the neighboring country while patiently and cautiously discussing a thorny and painful issue.

At the press conference I asked the prime minister whether he thought his statement would undermine Russian-Japanese economic relations, which are very fragile anyway and are still in the process of being established. V. Chernomyrdin replied that that is the opinion of the government and that its stance on the question is firm. "Maybe tomorrow they will decide we should give them Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk?" the premier added...

Even among those accompanying the head of government reactions to his pronouncement on the Kurils issue varied, and it was seen as "purely emotional."

Following the Russian premier's statement, some representatives of Japanese firms in charge of branches in Khabarovsk were very gloomy, believing that they might well get the order from Tokyo to "pack their bags."

The unpredictability of our policy and the glut of ill-considered statements by officials are a phenomenon we are familiar with. It is a pity that our prime minister had to contribute to it as well.

Political Issues

Further on Council of Ministers Presidium Meeting

'Grave' Fuel Situation Discussed

LD2608125893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers is now under way in the Kremlin.

[Correspondent A. Pishchayev] Today the presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers examined how to provide the national economy and the population with fuel, heating, and electricity in winter. According to Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and power engineering, the situation in this area is grave, if not catastrophic. Compared to last year, the provision of equivalent fuel is lagging behind by nearly 3.5 million tonnes. For instance, only 30 percent of the 27 thermal electric power station turbines planned for commissioning have been made operational. What is the reason? Yuriy Shafranik rejected the claim by the State Committee for Statistics that the poor preparation for winter is due to reduced coal extraction. In the minister's view, however, the problem is rooted in the inadequate funds for the industry.

The situation at atomic power stations is equally uninspiring. According to Viktor Mikhaylov, minister of atomic power engineering, 24 percent of capacities have been blocked because of the Finance Ministry's sluggishness in failing to provide the planned credits for atomic power engineering. For a month now, atomic power stations have not been receiving nuclear fuel, and by November-December station units will begin to shut down. First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who chaired the session, said all these issues will be examined in the afternoon. As regards the draft law on oil and gas submitted for today, Oleg Soskovets believes that it needs improvement.

Shafranik on Impending Fuel Crisis

LD2608155493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian Government intends to issue a special decision on providing the population with fuel and electricity this forthcoming winter. According to a report from Minister Yuriy Shafranik, the quantity of conventional fuel accumulated at the present time—62 million tonnes—will not be sufficient, either for industry or for the population, even for an ordinary winter. According to the meteorological center's forecasts, however, the winter will be more severe than in the last few years, and 70-80 million tonnes are needed for that. According to the minister, there are excess reserves of coal and other types of fuel in stock, but the ministry does not have the financial means to acquire them.

Makarov on Rutskoy 'Connection' to Swiss Bank Account

PM2708142193

[Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 August 1993 First Edition carries on page 4 under the general headline "For the Attention of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and IZVESTIYA Readers" a three-quarter-page feature comprising photographs of six documents purporting to show Vice President Rutskoy's connection with the transfer of money to Swiss banks plus a report of an interview with Andrey Makarov, department head at the Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption, by Igor Andreyev entitled "Commentary by Interdepartmental Commission Department Head Andrey Makarov," which reads in full as follows:

"I met with Andrey Makarov, department head at the Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption, on 24 August, a few hours before the documents which figured in that memorable press conference on 18 August began being delivered to the Moscow Prosecutor's Office. Andrey Makarov agreed in your correspondent's company to cast a parting glance at those dramatic files with their explosive content. And he commented on the documents which had allowed him to claim Vice President Rutskoy's connection to a Swiss bank account.

"To start with Makarov showed me a letter from the 'Rebirth' Fund for the Social Development of Russia to the Russian vice president (Document No. 1). It requests that an instruction be issued to the 'Agrokhim' State Agrochemical Association to finance the supply of baby food by a firm called Mirol Ltd. Rutskoy writes on the document 'Please investigate the possibility...'

"'That letter initiated a $20-million deal which seemingly has no relation to the subject of our conversation,' Makarov said. 'Meanwhile—and I will show you this—the transfer of currency paid under the contract led us to an account in the Bank Indosuez in Zurich belonging to a person unknown.'

"'Thus the current account of the Seabeco Trade and Finance AG company in the Bank Indosuez received $13.5 million (Document No.2) for baby food. Note, its account number is 62400. The money arrived from the Zurich Bank fuer Handel und Effekten. The latter, having discharged its role, received the instruction to transfer $3 million to Account No. 62299 M of the company Trade Links Ltd at the same Bank Indosuez.'

"'This whole story of the transfer of money must, of course, be investigated by due legal process,' Makarov commented. 'And it must be ascertained whether any payment to Trade Links Ltd was stipulated in the contract, what sort of company it is, and what was its

role in the baby-food deal and in other contracts. The commission does not have such powers, we are not the investigators [sledstviye], however the remittance of state money—and millions and millions of dollars figure in the documents—to Account No. 62299 M does seem clear to us. The documents which you see are the originals, there are no copies here. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that on each occasion around 25 percent of the amount received, I would note in parenthesis, for payment of the intermediary, from the sums forthcoming under the contracts went into the mysterious account 62299 M.

"'Another document helped tie that account in with a specific person—the vice president. The very one that I showed at the press conference. It (Document No. 6) has been checked in the most careful fashion by the state notary in Toronto, who, do believe me, values his reputation and his job.

"'The document is typical of a trust agreement, as it is called, between an owner of property, on the one hand, and a trustee, on the other. The owner entrusts his partner to manage his assets and property in his interests. All circumstances involving every possible situation in life and business are, naturally, stipulated. The main thing stressed repeatedly, however, is that everything is done in the interests of the owner, his family, and his heirs.

"'We, however, are interested in Paragraph One of the Agreement on the funds invested in the trust,' Andrey Makarov went on. 'In it the trustee confirms that the owner's property has been transferred to him. What property? The agreement refers to Schedule A (Document No. 5). Trade Links Ltd and the number of its account in the Bank Indosuez 62299 M figure there. The very same, you will recall. Who, then, signed the agreement on behalf of the owner? Aleksandr Rutskoy (see Document No. 4)... I will not comment upon the moral aspect, but the signature is dated 27 August 1991, five days after the failure of the coup...

"'Both at the press conference and now, in our discussion, I have used the term "connection" of the vice president with Account No. 62299 M,' Makarov summed up, 'because I am not empowered to make any other appraisals. That is the business of the law enforcement agencies and, in particular, the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office, to which we are today delivering the documents for them to describe in absolutely precise legal terms...'"

Rutskoy Ready To Testify, Sue on Corruption Allegations

LD2608164793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1611 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Statement by the press service of the Russian Federation vice president"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today issued a statement in which the vice president expresses his willingness to go to the Moscow city procuracy and testify as required by law on allegations made against him by the interdepartmental commission against crime and corruption.

The statement, which was faxed to ITAR-TASS, stresses the vice president's wish for the procuracy to investigate "his involvement in a Swiss bank account" as rapidly as possible, since Aleksandr Rutskoy's subsequent actions will be contingent upon this. The press service stated that "in the event of information set out by the commission not being confirmed, the vice president of the Russian Federation will have to consider whether to bring a criminal case against members of the commission for defamation, unless, of course, the procuracy identifies other crimes committed in their conduct."

Moscow City Prosecutor on Corruption Commission Materials

PM2608100393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "Moscow Prosecutor Waiting for Documents From Anticorruption Commission"]

[Text] "I appreciate why it was decided at the session with the Russian Federation president to transfer the materials of the interdepartmental commission to combat corruption in high places to the Moscow rather than the General Prosecutor's Office," Moscow City Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev said in a telephone conversation. "I am depressed to see our departments at loggerheads, but I will try to get out of the difficult, delicate situation by legitimate means."

Although it was decided to transfer the commission's materials to us and the Russian general prosecutor was given a vote of no confidence, Gennadiy Semenovich said, I do not think there will be anything in the package of documents to compromise Stepankov and other top officials. I believe we will be given compromising material on named and unnamed firms, their leaders and staff, state officials, and figures from various branches of authority. As for bigwigs, in particular the general prosecutor and his deputy, their fate must be decided first by the Supreme Soviet and the president. It is our duty, which I will not shirk, to check the commission's data by investigating them and give them the status of established facts.

I have never concealed the differences of opinion between the Moscow and General Prosecutor's Offices, between me and Stepankov, Ponomarev stressed. But the positions are gradually moving closer, and what happened 18 August in the Kremlin and then at the news conference is not connected with the activities of our system. Moreover, I would not call the claims made there facts. Take the recording of the conversation in which, according to A. Makarov, Stepankov discussed a plan to

murder the lawyer. OK, investigators often have to deal with documents of this kind. But they are only considered as arguments and not as proof in a case where a man's fate and his responsibility for an action or intention is being decided. In other words, until the information on that tape is confirmed by procedural means it is regarded as nothing more than information.

The Moscow prosecutor was skeptical about the commission's repeated statements about its activities being apolitical. Everyone is politicized these days, Gennadiy Semenovich claims—officials in particular. The political factor is always present in every socially important event, including the Kremlin session and the news conference immediately after it. In Ponomarev's view, the information supplied there should not have been published without being investigated in accordance with the law. The dirty linen has to be washed, of course, but not dumped on the dazed heads of people who no longer know what and whom to believe.

According to INTERFAX information, R. Khasbulatov discussed with V. Stepankov the question of mounting an investigation in respect of First Vice Premier V. Shumeyko and M. Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center. Citing a parliamentary source, the agency claims that the speaker was putting heavy pressure on the general prosecutor, insisting that he issue authorization for the arrest of Shumeyko and Poltoranin.

Update on Central, Local Government Activities

PM2708100793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch: Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Trips, Conferences**

[Passage omitted] First Deputy Premier Oleg Lobov has put together a packed working schedule. He will have a meeting with Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze, a meeting with Slovak Republic Prime Minister Mr. Meciar, and will participate in a working meeting with the head of the Slovak Government.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko held routine working meetings yesterday. First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets had discussions with R. Vyakhirev, chairman of the "Gazprom" Joint-Stock Company Board.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is in Smolensk Oblast. A conference is being held there on problems of the current state of flax production and processing and of the prospects for their future development.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays is continuing his series of conferences on privatization in 1993.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray is coming to the end of his vacation.

Due to his current heavy workload, B. Fedorov has cancelled his business trip to Novgorod which was planned for today. The postponement of the business trip is also explained by the fact that the vice premier received a number of urgent tasks from Head of Government V. Chernomyrdin, aimed at resolving the Far East region's financial problems.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is in South Korea. In addition to participating in the "Russian Day" at the "Expo-93" world exhibition, he will meet with the country's President Kim Yong-sam and will discuss the possibility of his visiting Moscow. Specific projects of bilateral economic cooperation will be touched upon during the talks, including setting up a South Korean technology park near the port of Nakhodka and jointly developing the Yakut natural gas field.

A key question at the two-day session of the CIS Defense Ministers Council, which opened in Moscow yesterday, will be the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and discussion of measures to normalize it.

A conference of leaders of the federation components' representative and executive powers from the Central, Central Chernozem, and Volga-Vyatka Economic Regions of the Russian Federation took place at the Kremlin. Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration, and Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, chaired the conference on behalf of the Russian Federation president. [passage omitted]

Appointments

Pavel Borodin has been appointed acting chief of the Main Social and Production Administration of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

Tourism

The Russian Federation Committee on Tourism has completed its work on the federal program to develop tourism in 1944 and beyond. It outlines the size of state investment needed, as well as plans to develop both well-established regions which are well-known to tourists, and new "gems," which should be developed vigorously. The Maritime Kray, for example.

Moscow

The next session of the Moscow Government has been scheduled for today. There are three questions on the agenda. The first is on the Russian Federation Law "On Protecting Consumer Rights" and how it is being implemented in the capital with regard to the certification of products and services. The second question concerns improving the procedure for setting up and registering, accounting, and monitoring enterprises' activities involving foreign investors who are using civic property. The third point on the agenda is about speeding up the reconstruction and extension of an administrative complex along Strastnoy Avenue.

St. Petersburg

Deputy Mayor of St. Petersburg V. Putin has taken part in a ceremony to launch the tanker Pulkovo at the Admiralty Shipyard. This tanker is the first in a series of cargo ships. It is designed to carry kerosene and aviation fuel and has a displacement of 28,000 tonnes. Previously, the Admiralty Shipyard worked on defense orders, but now, within the framework of conversion, it is beginning to build a tanker fleet, which Russia so badly needs at the moment.

Security Ministry Given Powers 'Even the KGB' Lacked

PM2708090793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksey Rakcheyev report: "No Need for Security Officials To Knock"]

[Text] A briefing "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Federal Organs of State Security'" was held in the Russian Federation Ministry of Security Public Relations Center yesterday.

"First and foremost we tried to bring the law into line with all the realities of life," Sergey Dyakov, chief of the Ministry of Security Academy, said. "The new rights which we have today will enable us to step up the struggle against crime and corruption."

Henceforth the Russian Ministry of Security will be granted powers which even the KGB did not have. Staffers of the special services will once again be assigned to various enterprises and institutions. Now they do not need the prosecutor's permission to enter residential premises.

Yeltsin Urged To Change Team, Seek 'Consensus'

PM2608102093 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by Aleksey Vorobyev: "Time for a Change of Team"]

[Text] Surprising as it may seem, and however skeptical the analysts may be about such an idea, it is worth trying to assess the present situation in the offices of power from the viewpoint of the president's political prospects, because I think it is this point of view that will enable us properly to understand the content of the political steps he is now taking.

The action launched by the people from the so-called Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption, people who are absolutely without autonomy and are totally controlled, is absolutely transparent and all too simplistic. Even those of the mass media that are sympathetic to democratic radicalism were unable to categorize it as other than highly dubious and too unsubstantiated.

It seems that the president himself realized this and fell into some confusion. The 19 August press conference bore the hallmarks of this confusion. Judge for yourself: The leader of Russian democracy believes his chief mistake has been to keep the parliament that opposed the putsch. That is what the president said: Immediately after the August attempted coup, he should have disbanded his own closest allies—the deputies—and then things would have gone just fine in Russia.

And what of the unintentional revelation that in September Boris Yeltsin (personally?) will need a strong security minister!

But let us come back to his prospects. It looks as if the president is not capable of putting a single one of his present slogans into practice by lawful means. He cannot set elections, or adopt a Constitution, or dissolve parliament. In this situation, people usually change their slogans. But that is precisely what the president's team is not allowing him to do. And the rather clumsy attempt to buy off the regional leaders with some kind of Federation Council, with its highly unspecific status and dubious powers, demonstrates that even Yeltsin himself has an inkling of the illusory nature of his power in Russia today. The republics' leaders greeted his proposed sop with silence, not as a sign of approval, but simply because there was nothing to say.

The meeting in Petrozavodsk emphasized the almost complete depletion of the president's potential for legitimate large-scale moves. That was why the meeting was followed immediately by such a frenzied reaction on the part of the "unmaskers" in the Kremlin team.

But such frenzies are reminiscent of political death throes. Indeed, if it is already obvious to many people that the progressive paralysis of the central power has led to the rapid elevation of the leaders of the Federation components, and if they have already tasted real power, what tempting morsels can the Russian president offer them now? Tax concessions, additional quotas for raw materials exports, absolute sovereignty? Within the framework of the existing system of power (or rather, lack of power), all these offers and promises are worth nothing. At the first attempt at an anticonstitutional coup, the regions will in any case take these things for themselves, without conditions of any kind.

The regions today need stability at the center and a reliable mechanism for influencing it. The reclusive president, totally shut off from society by his own entourage, is not capable of providing anything of the kind. Parliament is now far more accessible to influence from the regions, if only through the regions' deputies. This is the reason for the sympathetic stance of the regional elites and their firm impression of the legitimacy of the political process. Parliament is far more predictable and better adapted to the realization of heterogeneous regional interests than the presidential power in its present form. So why should the Federation components need drastic changes in the political system?

There can only be one way out of this thankless dilemma for the Kremlin today—a long-term political compromise between president and parliament. Only thus can the present institutions of power still survive, only thus will the democratic process in Russia not be cut short. But such a compromise requires different architects, a different team of advisers and experts. Neither zealous lawyers, nor mentally unbalanced businessmen from Toronto, nor figures of the adventurist type are suitable for this. The much-publicized August bluff about revelations is their swan song. That is to say, their final song...

The political prospects of the present power are thus transparent: either a formula of national consensus, or total chaos. There is no other option.

'Social Committee' Appeals To Yeltsin To Retire

LD2608232393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By correspondent Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Belov] The Social Committee for the Defense of the Constitution and Constitutional Structure of Russia, led by Supreme Soviet Vladimir Presidium member Isakov, appealed to the president of Russia voluntarily to retire at a news conference today. Activists from this social organization consider Boris Yeltsin the guilty party in every misfortune from the collapse of the Soviet Union to the fall in the birth rate. He is the source of all destructive processes at work in Russia.

Members of the committee announced as an aside, that they intend with the help of the Justice Ministry and the Supreme Court to achieve a ban on the activity of the Democratic Reform Movement in Russia, and all the other democratic parties at the same time—it is they, who form the pernicious, in their [the committee's] opinion, policies of the president.

Concerning the address by committee members to television and radio employees, whom they consider each and every one to be soldiers in the psychological war of U.S. imperialism against Russia, there sounded once again the severe warning that TV journalists cannot even count on prisoner of war status—that they will be tried as military criminals and traitors to the motherland. The authors of the address did not, however, specify on the basis of which laws their field courts-martial will operate: Most likely, on the basis of the old Soviet ones.

Regions Expected To Agree To Council of Federation

LD2608135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—The 88 regions and autonomous republics of the Russian Federation are expected to sign an agreement on forming a council of federation, said Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of the presidential council and an expert in regional politics.

He participated in a series of consultations in the Kremlin during which local government leaders worked out a concept of the council of federation. According to Smirnyagin, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Nikolay Ryabov will inform a joint meeting of the Russian parliament's chambers of the decision to form the council of federation on August 27.

In his opinion, several parliamentary factions approve of the idea of the council and one cannot rule out that parliament will sooner or later adopt a law on forming the new federal structure.

On the one hand, the council of federation will reinforce the Russian statehood, said Smirnyagin.

On the other hand, it might turn into a "superstate" body (an upper chamber of the prospective parliament) which will make "major decisions", he added.

To avoid it, one should take care to ensure that with time the council "blends into the new statehood", after it accomplishes its function as an advisory body during the transitional period.

The transitional period will end with the adoption of a new Russian constitution or in 1995, when the term of office of the current regional authorities expires, Smirnyagin said.

Economic Issues

Budget Figures for First Six Months of 1993

LD2608182193 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] According to the State Statistics Committee there has been a profit of R [rubles] 10.8 trillion in the national economy in the first six months of 1993. The increase is mainly connected with price rises.

One sixth part of all the enterprises are loss-making, and in the production sphere (housing and public utilities) over one third of the enterprises are unprofitable. The crisis of nonpayment in the national economy complicates the financial situation of enterprises.

The consolidated Russian budget for the first six months has ended up with a deficit of R633 billion (1.5 percent of GDP), with the federal budget having a deficit of R1438 billion (3.4 percent of GDP). In the overall revenues of the consolidated budget the profit tax accounts for 39 percent cent, VAT [value added tax] for 27 percent, income tax from individuals for 7.7 percent, revenues from foreign trade for 7 percent, shares for 4 percent.

Of the outgoings of the consolidated budget in the first six months, the outgoings for the national economy

account for 28 percent, for social and cultural measures for 28 percent, for defense for 14 percent, for the upkeep of state power, governing, and law enforcement for 7 percent, for foreign economic activities for 5 percent, for science for 2 percent cent. Of the outgoings of the consolidated budget for the first six months 50 percent (?are allotted) from the budget of the territories and 50 percent from the federal budget. In the first quarter of 1993 this ratio favored the federal budget. The target financing of the general state requirements and of intersectoral and sectoral problems in the first quarter of 1993 was carried out in the form of state extra-budgetary funds. Into all the extra-budgetary funds that functioned in Russia there was accrued 35 percent of the overall revenue of the consolidated budget and 12 percent of GDP. Of the total accruals 62.2 percent were accruals for the funds for social purposes, among them for the Pension Fund 48.7 percent, for the Social Insurance Fund 9.5 percent, for the Employment Fund 3.6 percent, and for the Social Security Fund 0.4 percent.

Government Begins Repaying Short-Term Bonds

PM2608123793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Untitled INTERCEPT and POSTFACTUM column report]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia and the Ministry of Finance have announced the repayment of the first issue of three-month, short-term state bonds that are being issued by decision of the Russian Government in order to finance the state budget deficit.

According to the government's decision, the total sum of short-term bonds may reach 650 billion rubles [R]. During the auction for the allocation of the first issue of state bonds, which was held 18 May, the Central Bank allocated, with a discount, bonds with a nominal value of 885.4 billion [as published] rubles [R] to the tune of R750 million. On the basis of the results of the auction, the annual profitability of the bonds was 103.11 per annum. The Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange is holding state bond auctions and inviting bids with the agreement of the Central Bank of Russia and the Ministry of Finance. So far the Russian Ministry of Finances has carried out four issues of state short-term bonds. In all, short-term bonds worth a total of several billion rubles have been allocated since the beginning of May.

Central Bank Official on Latest Bank Notes Decision

LD2608225493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Interview with A. Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Russian Central Bank by correspondent Liliya Lashchenko; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The Bank of Russia is leaving old bank notes with values of between one and 10 rubles in circulation until the end of 1993. The INTERFAX agency learned from the Russian Central Bank that all trading organizations are bound to accept these bank notes until the end of this year.

[Lashchenko] Is the Central Bank worried by pangs of conscience after having carried out its money exchange action?

[Khandruyev] Well, it was not an action, simply the exchange of old bank notes. They represented a very small proportion of the cash in circulation, less than 20 percent. The bank note withdrawal was a purely practical and technical measure. The main intention was to create the preconditions for Russia to be able to develop its relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union [blizhnevo zarubezhyya] on a civilized basis.

[Lashchenko] The information for those in possession of old one, three, five, and 10 ruble bank notes is that these are remaining in circulation until the end of 1993.

[Khandruyev] The population has no need to worry. All the coins of old and new issue remain legal tender—one, three, five, 10, and 50 kopek pieces will all be usable in transactions.

[Lashchenko] Until the first of [word indistinct]?

[Khandruyev] No, for an unlimited period.

New Acts Designed To Promote Entrepreneurs

PM2708100993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Documents in Preparation"]

[Text] As First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko reported, the Russian Federation Government has prepared a series of documents aimed at supporting and further developing entrepreneurship. They are designed to set up a regulatory, legislative basis, without which progress in this most important of areas is impossible.

Most important among them is the draft Russian Federation Law "On State Support for Small Private Enterprises in the Russian Federation" and the draft Council of Ministers decree "On Coordinating the Activities of the Central Organs of Federal Executive Power To Support Small Businesses and on Forms of Cooperation with Public Associations."

The series of documents will make entrepreneurs' lives considerably easier, especially when they are just starting up their businesses. The recently prepared Russian Federation president's draft edict "On the Procedure for State Registration of Enterprises and Individuals Involved in Entrepreneurial Activities" will simplify the procedure for registering entrepreneurs.

All those who have not exchanged their vouchers for investment checks will be able to use them as authorized capital for their companies. This is provided for in the

Council of Ministers decree "On the Procedure for Establishing Authorized Capital Using Privatization Checks for Newly Created Joint-Stock Companies and Partnerships That Are Small Business Entities," a draft of which has already been prepared.

Now it will also be easier to draw up leases for premises. A draft Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree "On the Procedure for Leasing and Selling Buildings and Premises That Are State Municipal Property to Small Business Entities" aims to do this.

The draft statute "On an Interdepartmental Coordinating Council To Develop Entrepreneurship Among Young People" is also noteworthy.

The Council of Ministers will adopt part of these documents as early as August and the others will be submitted to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in the near future.

Most Collective, State Farms Change Status

MK2608131093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA report: "Transformation of Collective Farms"]

[Text] Judging from State Committee for Statistics data, 23,000 collective and state farms in Russia (91 percent) went through a reregistration during 1992 and the first half of 1993, the Economic News Agency reports. Approximately 34 percent of all farms that have reregistered have kept their former status, while the others have been reorganized. The resulting main organizational-legal forms of operation are associations [tovarishchestva] of various types (11,000 economic entities). Also, more than 300 open-type joint-stock companies, 67,000 private farms, nearly 300 subsidiary farms run by enterprises and organizations, and 2,000 other formations (collective, people's) have been set up on the basis of reorganized collective and state farms. Some reorganized farms are continuing to search for more acceptable forms of operation and are going through a repeat reregistration, changing their organizational and legal status.

Civic Union Criticizes Cabinet's Economic Policy

LD2608132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, August 26 (TASS)—The Russian Government's economic policy was criticized by representatives of the Civic Union at a press conference here today. Member of the Civic Union's advisory board, Iosif Diskin, pointed to the growing inflation rate and charged "radical pro-marketeers" in the government with blocking measures of state regulation of the economy.

Diskin rebuked the Council of Ministers for giving in to the strong, among whom he named the miners, because of whose ultimatum "financial stabilization in the country was being conducted in detriment to the socially vulnerable layers of the population", Diskin said.

Civic Union officials said that "Russia has failed to come anywhere near to the really functioning market".

Media Issues

Shokhin Cited on Poltoranin Replacing Fedotov

LD2708140893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1214 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin devoted a large part of his Moscow news conference to yesterday's meeting in Minsk. His answer to one of the questions is directly relevant to journalists, and therefore to Mayak:

[Begin Shokhin recording] As for this series of resignations, I cannot say for sure whether Mikhail Fedotov vacated his post in order to make way for Mikhail Poltoranin. I do not know whether this is why he resigned. Neither can I say whether the real reason for his resignation was to draw attention to the problem of freedom of expression or to leave himself free to use other ways of preventing the Supreme Soviet from passing amendments that infringe on freedom of expression—although it would be easy to draw this inference. But if Mikhail Poltoranin does take Mikhail Fedotov's place, I would not regard this as being the best way of fighting for freedom of speech. [end recording]

Media Watchdog Urged To Model Itself on BBC

LD2708112793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by announcer Sergey Belyayev and correspondent Irina Arkhiyeva]

[Text] [Belyayev] Mikhail Poltoranin has prepared a draft decree on the dissolution of the Federal Information Center [FIC], which he currently heads. Commenting on this, the newspaper SEGODNYA draws attention to the fact that Mikhail Poltoranin decided to dissolve his center as soon as Mikhail Fedotov resigned as minister of press and information. There have been endless rumors that Fedotov would be replaced by Mr. Poltoranin himself. The paper says that a date for the appointment is even being specified now—1 September. To clarify the situation a bit, we decided to turn to the Federal Information Center itself. Irina Arkhiyeva reports:

[Arkhiyeva] I spoke to Mikhail Poltoranin's first deputy, Sergey Yushenkov. He disclosed that the head of the Federal Information Center had indeed passed a draft decree on the abolition of FIC to the president. The Federal Information Center will cease to exist. We will

abide by the Constitutional Court's ruling, Sergey Yushenkov said. However, he described the ruling as a strange one. All the signs are, however, that this will actually be a reorganization. The functions of FIC will be taken over by a Federal Information Corporation, which media organizations will be free to join on a voluntary basis. Sergey Yushenkov said that quite a few organizations had already expressed a wish to join.

There is a similarity between the name Russian Information Corporation and British Broadcasting Corporation. Let us hope that, as far as independence, objectivity, and impartiality are concerned, the new organization will be more similar to the BBC, which does not allow the authorities to seek influence over journalists. May God preserve us from a new Gosteleradio [State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, which existed in the former Soviet Union].

TV Complains of Parliament Threats to Journalists

LD2708101093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report by announcer Khudonbina; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On 23 August the Supreme Soviet Parliamentary Hour program declared what is effectively a plan for revenge against journalists whose views do not coincide with those of representatives of the opposition, embodied by the Social Committee for Defense of the Constitution and Constitutional Structure of Russia. That is what the committee is called. If, God forbid, the representatives of the opposition should come to power, I quote: Even if foreign instructors can still depend on prisoner of war status, these warriors on the ideological front will be tried as military criminals and traitors to the motherland.

Once again I draw your attention to the fact that that was a quote from an appeal from the aforementioned committee. You could call all this humorous repartee were it not for the fact that Russian People's Deputies Isakov, Astafyev, and Ivchenko were behind the appeal. As we know, they do not like joking with the press. That was confirmed at a news conference by this committee today.

'TV-Parliament' Chief Interviewed on 'Parliament Hour'

MK2508130093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 35, 29 Aug 93 (signed to Press 24 Aug) p 13

[Interview with Yuriy Marechenkov, aide to the Russian parliament chairman, by Olga Bychkova: "'White House' 'As Regards Culture And Morals'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Yuriy Marechenkov, aide to the Russian parliament chairman, director of the parliamentary press service, former chairman of the television and radio committee in Groznyy, is the head and founder of the "TV-Parliament" company. He agreed to answer questions from MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI.

[Bychkova] Why is the "Parliament Hour" program necessary after all?

[Marechenkov] Everybody asks this, but this question is very naive. First, this sort of television exists in all countries where democratic parliaments exist—there is nothing strange in giving your people the needed information. Second, many of the media, especially electronic ones, do not always objectively show what the Supreme Soviet does.

[Bychkova] Do you think your information is more objective?

[Marechenkov] This is an incredibly banal question. Everybody asks it as if they do not realize what is going on here in Russia. We show the working of the Supreme Soviet from within. They, in this democratic, absolutely open organ, state every day that society is sliding downward. And those to blame for that are the government and the president who govern the country.

[Bychkova] Would you agree to direct the government television?

[Marechenkov] Under this government? I would not be able to. It is suicide when the line of only one party is being pushed.

[Bychkova] Do you not have to push the line of the parliamentary majority?

[Marechenkov] But this is normal. If the parliamentary majority is so disposed, television should reflect this. Why should it have a special stance?

[Bychkova] What amount of parliamentary information do you think viewers who turn on their sets in the evening need?

[Marechenkov] You know, our viewers today account for the greater part of Russia's population. First and foremost, this is the working class, peasants, and, I think, a considerable part of the intelligentsia. When on trips with Ruslan Imranovich, I always hear people wishing for a longer duration of our broadcasting. Incidentally, all this noise around extending our programming and moving it forward to later hours.... I am amazed: chairmen of almost all the regional television and radio companies signed one and a half or two months ago a letter requesting altering the "Parliament Hour" time slot because it coincided with their programs. And after the parliamentary committee on the mass media made this decision, everybody got upset....

[Bychkova] Could they have not been sure that the viewers were going to agree to watch "Parliament Hour" instead of "Santa Barbara"?

[Marechenkov] What so special about it? "Santa Barbara", I think, is a real ideological, political subversion against the people of Russia. A harmful, morally low piece of work. This serial was specially infiltrated to divert people's attention, and to say later: what a shame they are being prevented from seeing it.... Why are there none of our, Russian, films? It is in order to deny people the chance to watch in prime time what is taking place regarding culture and morals in Russia. As a professional, I would recommend all of television to revise its concept.

Journalists Oppose Amendments to Law on Mass Media

LD2608154893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—Russian journalists announced determination "to pool their efforts to uphold the freedom of speech and the right of society for obtaining reliable information, as well as to support the struggle of TV journalists for independence up to the setting up of a strike committee". The journalists' unions of Russia, Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Russian Foundation of Journalists, the Committee for Advocating Freedom of Speech and Journalists' Rights, the Foundation for Openness Protection and the Club of Editors-in-Chief released a joint statement saying that the press, which should be regarded as a public instrument for protecting civil rights, freedom, democracy and Russia's statehood, has found itself impoverished and deceived by those in power.

The journalists noted that "repeated promises by all power branches to ensure legally and economically the independence of the press, as well as the legal and social protection of journalists have proved mere declarations. Fierce struggle for the right to supervise the mass media is being stepped up". The law on mass media is not respected. Moreover, while declaring the freedom of speech, this law appeared incapable of ensuring it under market conditions. The existing legislation has not been brought in line with this law, nor a reasonable mechanism of state protectionism towards the press has been determined.

Journalists' unions flatly oppose any attempts to pervert the essence of the law under the guise of its improvement. They "denounce the political line pursued by the present authorities, which is based on taming, humiliating and discriminating the mass media. The only amendment to the law might be an article prohibiting all branches of power from founding mass media outlets".

The Moscow Journalists' Union expressed a decisive protest against legislative acts passed by the Russian parliament, including the one establishing the Federal Supervising Council "as a censorship institution in broadcasting companies".

Supreme Soviet

Proceedings of 27 Aug Parliament Session Previewed

To Discuss Media Law, Budget, Foreign Policy

LD2708093093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—Today is going to be an eventful day in the Russian Parliament: The legislators intend to discuss a number of issues dealing with the country's everyday life given wide coverage by the press.

According to the preliminary agenda, today's joint session of the two chambers of the Russian Parliament will discuss a new package of President Boris Yeltsin's amendments to the law "on the mass media" sent to the parliament for reconsideration.

The parliament is expected to appeal to the Constitutional Court to rule on the constitutionality of the presidential decree on the All-Russia Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. A draft resolution to this effect is on the agenda of today's session.

The law "on the adjustment of indices of the republic's budget of the Russian Federation for 1993", as well as a number of other legal acts which the president has declined to sign, are also expected to be reconsidered by the parliament.

The parliament plans to set up a commission today to study and give a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

To Debate Yeltsin Media Bill Amendments

LD2608161893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—A joint meeting of the Russian parliament's chambers will consider Russian President Boris Yeltsin's amendments to the bill on the mass media on August 27, Nikolay Ogorodnikov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee for mass media, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

President Yeltsin has sent to the parliament a new package of amendments which, in some measure, take into account the results of parliamentary discussions held a week ago, he said.

As is known, the parliament had adopted a bill on the mass media, but the president refused to sign it into law. Instead, he proposed amendments to the bill which were discussed by the parliament on August 20. After a prolonged parliamentary debate came to nothing, it was

decided to postpone discussion for a week to enable the legislative and executive powers to coordinate their positions.

The difference of views centred mostly on regulations prescribing the way the leadership of state-owned television companies is appointed and dismissed, and on the degree to which the so-called supervisory councils may interfere in the electronic media's activities.

To Consider Sevastopol Representation

LD2608174893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Very shortly, probably on 27 August, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will have a closed session at which it will take a decision on setting up a Supreme Soviet representation in Sevastopol. The NEGA agency learned this from sources close to the Russian Supreme Soviet leadership. One of the sources has quoted Ruslan Khasbulatov, who believes that such representation should be already working by the time the presidents of Russia and Ukraine meet.

The NEGA agency also reported today that a group of Ukrainian admirals and officers has completed the work on proposals made for President Leonid Kravchuk in connection with the upcoming Russian-Ukrainian summit.

Parliament Decides To Submit Yeltsin Decree to Court

LD2708151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Today, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has adopted a decision, almost without discussion, on sending an application to the Constitutional Court to check the constitutional nature of the decree of President Boris Yeltsin of 20 August this year "On an All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company." The majority of the deputies at the joint session of the chambers voted in favor of the decision. With its resolution the parliament has suspended the effect of the decree of the president until the matter of its constitutional nature has been decided by the Constitutional Court.

As grounds for the application, Nikolay Ogorodnikov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee for the mass media, stated that by the president's decree the chairman and general director of the company have in fact been released from their duties and appointed acting chairman and acting general director, which does, in the opinion of the committee, essentially change their legal position with regard to labor legislation and does not correspond to the established procedure for their appointment to the posts indicated and for their release from them.

Deputy Mikhail Mityukov, former chairman of the disbanded committee for parliamentary legislation, pointed out the vulnerability of the position of the committee for the mass media, on whose initiative the issue had been placed on the session's agenda. "The grounds for the position of the petitioner not only fail to correspond to the Constitution, but are also in contradiction to the current legislation," he stressed.

Media Law Debate Postponed

LD2708105393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] At the Russian Supreme Soviet session today: On the air is our special correspondent, Vera Shchelkunova.

[Shchelkunova] I have only two brief reports because all the media has been saying that the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation would today return to the law on the media in view of the president sending it back for a second examination. I have to report that this question has again been put back for a week at the request of David Tsabriya, deputy minister of the press and information. His reason for this is that the Ministry for Press and Information regards the fact that this draft law—or, rather, law—was not examined last Friday and postponed for a week as a furter chance to reach a coordinated decision together with the Supreme Soviet.

A spokesman for the Supreme Soviet, Vladimir Lisin, chairman of the Media Committee, insisted that this question should be examined today. He said, practically speaking, the crux of his speech boiled down to the fact that no compromises are required any longer and are impossible. There were cries in the hall both not to postpone it and also to postpone it. But Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov], through a will of his own and without resorting to a vote, decided to postpone this question for another week. God willing, this week has brought some positive results, and by that I mean some sort of coordinated decision.

Now briefly about what the Supreme Soviet has done today. A final law on introducing amendments and additions to the law on freedom of religion was adopted, taking into account amendments of the president. Not all of them were adopted but, in principle, this version apparently suits the president's representative. A law on basic documents of the Russian Federation certifying identity was presented to deputies, but it did not even get through a first reading since a paragraph in this draft law which excludes mention of nationality in such an official document as one certifying identity aroused very acute objections.

Work on the agenda was supposed to be continued but for some reason a debate has started up on additional questions which may be included in the agenda. In particular, a question has again been raised about Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The question was raised: What sort of deputy is

he to Khasbulatov? To which Khasbulatov replied: a poor one. There I conclude my brief report from the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Moscow Department Opposes Parliament's Media Council

LD2708100593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Moscow government press and information department has published a statement on the decision by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the creation of a federal council on ensuring freedom of speech on state television and radio. The statement stresses that the decision by the Supreme Soviet has violated the requirements of the country's exisiting legislation. It gives the council the right to appoint and sack television and radio bosses which is illegal. The functions and powers of the newly announced body are in contravention of Russian legislation on culture and damage the rights of journalists.

Parliamentarian Supports Formation of Federation Council

LD2608222893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—The idea of forming a Council of the Federation was described as an undoubtedly positive idea by Mikhail Dmitriyev, deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Interrepublican Relations, Regional Politics and Cooperation.

Dmitriyev told ITAR-TASS that there are no objections in principle to this idea in the committee, although the majority of the committee's members "would prefer to see the Council of the Federation as a body formed on a basis of the Constitution and sealed by subsequent legislation". Functions of the Council of the Federation should be firmly based on law.

Dmitriyev and a number of his colleagues believe there may be debates about the way in which the Council of the Federation should be formed. The president's proposal that the council automatically include chiefs of representative and executive authorities of each subject of the Federation will prompt many questions as to the affectivity of such a council whose members have vast obligations in their regions.

In addition, the forming of the Council of the Federation by a presidential decree or by the arrival of subjects of the Federation will cause objections with regard to the constitutional order, Dmitriyev noted. Therefore, he believes that the Council of the Federation should only have "consultative powers", otherwise it will interfere with powers of other authorities.

As to political expediency of forming this body, the formation of the council may be extremely important for bringing closer early parliamentary elections, Dmitriyev believes. The timeframe for the holding of early elections and consent to them above all depend on the wish of subjects of the federation. If most of them do not support the idea of elections, it will be impossible to hold them.

Even if the Council of the Federation will not be given powers under the constitution, "the psychological factor of its work will be extremely strong", Dmitriyev believes. Regions now carry huge political weight, and neither the parliament, nor the president, nor political parties will be able to ignore the opinion of the Council of the Federation on any matter.

Commission Chairman Views Budget Debate

LD2508161093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—The Planning-Budgetary Commission of the Russian Parliament aimes at constructive work to specify the Russian budget for 1993, said the commission's Chairman Alexander Pochinok. In an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS he said that President Boris Yeltsin is "justifiably concerned" over the deficit of the budget after the debating of the draft law by the parliament.

The deputies adopted the law "on specifying the indexes of the Russian budget for 1993" on July 22, and on August 18, the president referred it back to the parliament for a repeated consideration. The president found the draft budget to contradict "the course of the economic and social development consistently implemented by the federal bodies of executives authorities."

It is stressed in Yeltsin's message that the law resulting from the parliamentary debate crosses out the work of the executive structures over the past year for the stabilisation of financial system.

Pochinok said that next Friday the parliament will apparently resume the discussion of the budget at its plenary meeting.

The chairman of the Planning-Budgetary Commission is optimistic about the parliament's finding the common language with the president. "I believe the president's view that a number of articles should be worded in a different way can be supported", he said. "Boris Yeltsin questions some figures. In some cases, he is mistaken, in others, the parliament was not critical to what was suggested by the government, and it is necessary to discuss such matters with the Finance Ministry", Pochinok said.

Pochinok believes the president is right then he requests that the deficit be decreased from 50 to 30.2 per cent.

Pochinok believes this will not be easy to achieve. "It is not accidental that Yeltsin's message does not contain any specific wishes in this respect". If the government insists that budget expenditures should be decreased, it should indicate specific articles that can be subject to cuts", Pochinok said. "There are no such proposals yet", he said. He expressed the readiness for discussion with the Finance Ministry.

Regional Affairs

Ochirov Urges N. Ossetia, Ingushetia Withdrawal

LD2608123393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] North Ossetia and Ingushetia should both withdraw military units from the zone of the conflict. This has been stated in Vladikavkaz by General Ochirov, who's been appointed deputy head of the provisional administration in that region of the northern Caucasus. He is convinced that both warring sides should do that in the interests of a peaceful settlement. The ethnic problem cannot be solved by force of arms. There should be talks and steps to meet each other half way, said the general.

Speaking about the situation in the zone of the conflict, he underlined that it was very complicated, but was controlled by Russia's peacekeeping forces.

Situation Remains Stable

LD2608153993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 26 TASS—The situation in the state of emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia has been stable for the past 24 hours, a source at the republican committee on national security told ITAR-TASS.

Sporadic fire from small arms and grenade launchers was reported in some settlements during night-time. Five pieces of small arms, a few grenades and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were confiscated in the course of a car search operation conducted in Prigorodnyy district of the republic.

Attempt To Blow Up Chechen Bridge Fails

LD2608194193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Groznyy August 26—Terrorists made an attempt to blow up a railway bridge over Argun River in the Chechen Republic, southern Russia, on Thursday [26 August].

However the explosion damaged only one of the bridge posts, leaving the bridge virtually intact after part of the detonators failed, according to Khamid Dzhamalayev, deputy head of the Chechen Criminal Police Department.

Moscow Mayor Rejects Law on Residence Rights

LD2608231293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has stated that he does not intend to implement the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet on the entitlement of Russian Federation citizens to freedom of movement and choice in where they stay and reside within Russia. In his view, the capital is without the affliction of those wishing to settle there, and now the doors will be opened for any newcomers with money. The Supreme Soviet, Luzhkov thinks, drew up the law to suit itself. It passed it so that deputies obtaining or buying a dwelling place could settle in the capital.

Novosibirsk Region Opposes Federation Council

LD2608223993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk, Western Siberia August 26 TASS—If a council of the Federation is formed, the Novosibirsk region will not delegate its representatives to it. The decision to this effect was adopted by a session of the regional Council of People's Deputies on Thursday [26 August]. The adopted document says that "the creation of the council of the Federation as an organ of state authorities contradicts the Russian Constitution and is unlawful. It is actually an attempt to encroach on soviet power in the Russian Federation".

The session urged representative authorities of all subjects of the federation to be guided by the Constitution. The deputies stated support for the parliament in its actions to defend the constitutional system in Russia.

Smolensk DPR Threatens To Pull Out of Civic Union

PM2708124993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Rutskoy Has Stirred Up Smolensk Region"]

[Text] Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy visited the Smolensk region recently. The reverberations from his visit have not yet quieted down.

Just over a year ago, the Smolensk branch of the bloc of political parties, public organizations, and deputies' groups which form the "Civic Union" appeared here. Supporters of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] were members. So, after A. Rutskoy's visit, they in

particular were filled with indignation at the contents of his speeches which, in their view, discredit the idea of political centrism. The DPR leaders propose in their speeches that an enlarged session of the "Civic Union" Smolensk Branch Coordination Council be urgently held, at which the questions of the stance of the "disturber of the peace" in the "Civic Union" and of his activities could be discussed. The DPR is even threatening that if the vice president represents the general stance of the bloc of political parties, the DPR will leave the "Civic Union."

Unlike the DPR's open ultimatums, the Smolensk branch of the People's Party of Free Russia appeals in its statement to all residents of Smolensk who share A. Rutskoy's point of view to actively participate in joint work.

Well, I think that this appeal will fall on sympathetic ears. The majority of the population in the Smolensk area welcomed the vice president warmly and with interest.

International Affairs

URP, Officers Protest Russian Deputies' Arrival in Crimea

WS2708105693 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Sevastopol branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], the Ukrainian Navy Officers Union, and a number of other public organizations of Sevastopol have issued a joint declaration. The organizations voice their protest and resentment over the Russian deputies' arrival in Sevastopol. The group is led by Yevgeniy Pudovkin. The declaration underlines that the Black Sea Fleet command, subordinated nominally to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, in reality holds meetings with Russian deputies at the fleet's headquarters. The deputies, in their turn, call for ignoring the presidential decision on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, while promising financial assistance and shipments of foodstuffs. This way, the officers are being involved in politics which is inadmissible, for it may exacerbate the situation in the fleet and in the Crimea.

Scholars Appeal to Kravchuk Against Economic Union

LD2608105693 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—On 25 August, prominent Ukrainian scholars sent a letter to President Leonid Kravchuk expressing deep concern about "pushing and stepping up the formation of the so-called economic union, which in reality is a process of resuscitating and restoring the Russian Empire under a new guise."

The appeal, which is signed by 51 people, says in part:

"We have already received the new document entitled 'The Agreement between the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine on Deepening Economic Integration' (draft) [title given in Russian] of 10 August 1993, signed by [Industry and Transport Minister] V. Hladush, head of the Ukrainian side. This document, which for understandable reasons is being concealed from the public, concerns a common customs service, with Article 66 actually prohibiting Ukraine from independent economic ties with other states' economic associations. Article 67 'Agreements' [previous word in Russian] prohibits any changes being made in the agreement."

Among those signing the appeal are: Ihor Yukhnovskyy, vice academician of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Vitaliy Strikha, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Higher Education; Academicians Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, Stanislav Hubar, (?Roman Ivanukh), and Mykhaylo Tolstoy; Vitaliy Sklyarenko, Lyubomyr Pyrih, and Ivan Lukomskyy, corresponding members of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Professors Stanislav Kulchytskyy, Oleksandr Taranenko, and other well-known scholars.

The signatories expressed the hope that Leonid Kravchuk's wisdom and historical awareness will save the state from a repetition of the tragedy of the Pereyaslav Rada [Ukrainian Cossack leaders' council of 18 January 1654, at which they took an oath of allegiance to the Russian tsar].

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Slovakia

WS2708105793 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Complex processes involved in the formation of the independent states of Ukraine and Slovakia have had an impact on the economic situation in these countries. Both sides intend to improve the situation. Recently, they have begun negotiating their economic cooperation.

The delegation headed by Yaroslav Kubecka, Slovak minister of economics, which has paid a visit to Ukraine, also concentrated on broadening and deepening cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, the delegation met with Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk, in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The signing of an array of Ukrainian-Slovak intergovernmental documents was the main event of the visit. Among them were agreements on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

Mykola (Mnyts), first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, said: The signed documents are important for both the Ukrainian and the Slovak sides. In the first place, we focused on cooperation with developed Western countries, but we cannot match their development level. So, realistically estimating the situation, we are not ceasing our participation in all-European processes, but we should emphasize the necessity of cooperation with all countries.

Yaroslav Kubecka pointed out: During the visit we discussed very interesting projects of cooperation not only on government but also on lower levels. The realization of these projects will reflect our people's desire for friendship and cooperation between our countries.

Economic Cooperation With Uzbekistan Called 'Deplorable'

LD2608224693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The results of economic cooperation between Ukraine and Uzbekistan could be described as deplorable. A treaty was signed in Kiev exactly a year ago by the heads of state. According to official figures, in the first six months [of the year] Ukraine did not send a single tonne of sugar, meat, or milk to Uzbekistan. That is probably why Uzbekistan failed to send its Ukrainian partners any cotton staple for the textile industry. Accords on joint action to save the Aral Sea have proved not to be worth the paper they were written on.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Resumes Work, Discusses Referendum

WS2708102393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council resumed plenary meetings of its seventh session on 26 August. The session is chaired by Ivan Plyushch. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma are taking part in the session. After a discussion of the proposed agenda, the deputies decided to discuss, by the end of the week, the 18 June 1993 Supreme Council resolution on the all-Ukrainian referendum on confidence in the president and the Supreme Council, and measures on social security of the population. The Supreme Council took into account the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers would submit the draft complex program on stabilizing the financial system and overcoming the economic crisis for consideration by Supreme Council permanent committees. The government was charged with submitting the draft, completed by the committees, for discussion at the session within 10 days. Anatoliy Tkachuk, deputy chairman of the Legislative Committee, and Mykhaylo Hryshkun, head of the Committee for Councils of People's Deputies and the Development of Self-rule, took the floor on the first issue. President Leonid Kravchuk spoke at the conclusion of the morning session. The discussion of the issue was continued at the evening session and will continue on 27 August.

Kravchuk Considers Two Versions of Referendum

LD2608111793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report by announcer Sergey Vozianov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has put forward two versions of the referendum. In an interview with INTERFAX agency he mentioned holding early elections to the Supreme Soviet and a legally authorized referendum on confidence in the president as the first version. The other version, in Kravchuk's words, envisages two questions: What state—parliamentary or presidential—would the people like to have, and what policy—market or nonmarket—would they like implemented, I quote Leonid Kravchuk. According to Leonid Kravchuk, if the view in favor of a parliamentary republic prevails, elections to a new parliament should be held while the post of president should disappear from the political arena. If the people says that it would like to build socialism, well, we will get on with building socialism, the president said.

Crimea Considers Referendum on Dissolving Legislature

WS2708112293 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission of the Crimean Republic today examined the results of collecting signatures for a referendum on dissolving the Crimean legislature. Initiative groups collected more than 195,000 signatures. However, random verifications revealed many failings which gave grounds to doubt the results of this action taken at the initiative of the [word indistinct] and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions. After verifying the ballots, the commission excluded almost 13,000 signatures, collected in violation of the established procedures. However, there were still enough valid ballots required to hold a referendum. Now, the decision rests with the Crimean Supreme Council Presidium.

Pluses, Minuses of Two Years of Independence Eyed

PM2608121993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1, 7

[Vitaliy Panov article under "Date" rubric: "In the Complex Wake of Independence"]

[Text] Ukraine—Sovereign, independent, autonomous, collectivist [sobornyy] Ukraine is two years old. I well remember how one decision after another was hurriedly adopted at the Ukrainian Supreme Council session in August 1991—decisions placing sovereign Ukraine in the independent category. In their haste they even forgot to turn off the microphone during the first moments of the break, and you could hear someone asking Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Leonid Kravchuk in an agitated voice whether he had heard that Gorbachev had resigned from all his posts. "I have heard something like that," Kravchuk said in an offhand way. It came home to me that Ukraine was independent.

At that moment Kravchuk was clearly concerned more about how to resist the pressure from the national radicals who were trying to accuse him of sympathizing with the putschists and about how to cope with the communist majority in parliament, by persuading it to approve the state's new symbols, than about the resignation of the USSR president.

In what has Ukraine succeeded over the past two years, and in what has it failed?

Yes, Ukraine has confidently emerged into the international arena. The state is gradually acquiring an increasingly national appearance: The press, education, and science are being Ukrainianized. The Ukrainian Army is actively being formed. New cadres are growing rapidly. Independence has meant a strong organizational reform of the economy, which has facilitated its management. As is usual after a shakeup, a considerable section of society has acquired new ideals or been confirmed in its

former ones. In short, Ukraine's independence has undoubtedly given the country and the people a strong boost.

But there are plenty of "minuses" too. It is perfectly obvious that Ukraine's new leadership has damaged the Ukrainian economy's feed arteries by breaking away from Moscow politically.

How many times, for example, I have heard the impassioned statements of Volodymyr Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian ambassador to Moscow, about the total impossibility of Ukraine's seeking any compromises with Russia at all without harming its national sovereignty and interests. I read in a recent newspaper that Pan Kryzhanovskiy declared at a news conference in the Slavyanskaya Hotel: Ukraine cannot afford world prices for Russian energy sources, and Russia could perfectly well cancel the Ukrainian debt of $1 billion (for previous gas and oil).

Only in the name of what? Of the "fraternal friendship" thoroughly spurned by many "pans"?

Unfortunately, the in-depth democratization of society is proceeding with great difficulty, as in Russia: The matter is frequently confined to the first secretary's place being taken by the president's representative.

The policy of building a state with a vividly expressed Ukrainian national appearance is rocking the Ukrainian boat: "Patriots" are inclined to go to extremes that are unacceptable to a good half of Ukraine. Separatist tendencies are growing, reinforced by the fivefold drop in living standards.

The collapse of the Ukrainian monetary system—the karbovanets rate at once dropped by a factor of three—was a bad gift for two-year-old independence.

In short, if you look at things objectively and optimistically, it should be said that Ukraine is in a profound crisis: economic and political. There are many reasons for this. But the chief one, in my view, is the diabolical hold on life of the totalitarian dragon and its supernatural capacity for mimicry. Cut into pieces, it is reborn with new strength. Casting aside its communist aspect, it was reborn, for example, in a national one, and political diktat was replaced by economic diktat, and the lawlessness of the CPSU by the lawlessness of mafias and clans.

This is the very reason why you cannot even say straightaway what there is more of in Ukraine's historical development over the past two years—pluses or minuses. But these difficult steps have been taken.

Happy holiday, independent, sovereign Ukraine!...

Senior Border Troop Officers Promoted

WS2508142893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] According to an edict by the Ukrainian president, a group of border troop officers have been promoted to the next rank. Oleksnadr Artemov, deputy chief of the Border State Committee, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, while Ivan Nakonechnyy, chief of administration [not further specified], and Volodymyr Bidah, commander of the Chernivtsi Border Detachment, became major generals.

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Hires Harvard Professor as Adviser

LD2508082093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0638 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, August 25—Three heads are better than two, President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan decided and invited Harvard University Professor Jeffrey Sachs to act as his adviser. Sachs is world known economist in the field of macroeconomics.

Less than a month ago Bishkek was visited by Japanese Professor Tatsuo Kaneda, who thinks his main occupation is to advise the Kyrgyz president. The Japanese professor arrived with specialists in light and electronic industries and brought along a 150-page work suggesting ways of pulling Kyrgyzstan out of the economic abyss. He said that the republics economy had every chance to overcome the crisis and praised the president's successful and timely handling of the problem of national currency.

The American professor discussed with the leaders a number of questions relating to the region's macroeconomics and interaction between Kyrgyzstan and the rest of the world.

For the time being, the economic slump still continues in the republic. Budget spending runs 160 million soms ahead of revenues. Some local specialists say that emergency measures aiming to normalise finances are not likely to ease social tensions in the republic.

President Akayev published his plan for stabilising finances on Tuesday.

Minister To Sign Consular, Transport Agreements in China

LD2708101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek, August 27—Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Ednan Karabayev will discuss ways of deepening cooperation in the spheres of economy, policy and culture in the course of his official visit to China.

He is scheduled to meet the Chinese Government officials and local businessmen. A consular agreement and agreements on cultural cooperation and international transport communication are expected to be signed.

Trade, political and cultural relations beteen the two countries have become considerably more active with past few years. Chinese goods are most popular on Kyrgyz market. They are products of light industry and sugar. Kyrgyzstan delivers to China glass, metal and electro-goods.

Business Leaders Criticize New Tax on Work, Services

LD2508090893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Emergency measures to save Kyrgyzstan's budget have caused a very negative reaction in the republic's business community. A statement issued today by the republic's Congress of Private Entrepreneurs, the Union of Producers and the Independent Entrepreneurs Trade Union in the republic says the five percent tax on the volume of work and services, which is to go to the fund for social support of the population, is a blow to the entire republic. In the opinion of the business community, an all-round price hike is in the offing. The representatives of Kyrgyzstan's business community who signed the document call for the tax to be repealed. They believe the money needed for social support of the population can be found through drastic cuts in the amounts spent on maintaining inflated management structures and in other items of budget expenditure.

Dzhalalabad Oblast Sends Aid to Tajikistan

LD2608154193 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1110 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Summary] According to the government's press service, the Dzhalalabad Oblast administration has rendered humanitarian aid to the bordering areas of Tajikistan in order to help neighbors with food, medicine, and warm clothes. People's deputy of Kyrgyzstan (Tekebayev), who accompanied the consignment, stressed that Kyrgyzstan has interests in Tajikistan and further assistance will be broadened. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with the media's insufficient coverage of the life of the Kyrgyz battalion in Tajikistan.

Army Facing Shortage of Officers

LD2608214993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, August 26—The 210,000-strong Kyrgyz Army is losing officers. Dozens left the republic in the first seven months of this year, and there is no one to stand in for them. Cadets of Russian military schools are reluctant to accept posting in Kyrgyzstan.

"Military men are increasingly uncertain about their future," said Major Akzhol Isayev, spokesman for the press centre of the republic's State Committee on Defence. "Many officers have no housing, military property is being stolen, government officials give orders to sell military equipment, often without so much as asking the State Committee on Defence for an opinion."

Tajikistan

Prime Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2508212093 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

Yesterday Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, received U.S. ambassador Stanley Escudero.

Issues pertaining to rendering additional U.S. humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan were discussed in the conversation.

Prime Minister, Japanese Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2608222093 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, received Edamura Sumio [ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Tajikistan] and the delegation accompanying him today.

The possibilities of establishing economic cooperation between the two states in the fields of agriculture, mining, processing of non-ferrous metals, and the supply of electricity were discussed during the course of a practical and interesting conversation.

Abdujalil Samadov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, ministers, and other officials attended the meeting.

Rakhmanov Expected To Visit Kabul Shortly

LD2708100693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0836 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Dushanbe, August 27 —It is quite probable that the Tajik and Afghan leaders will meet in the next few days, ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources in the Tajik Parliament. The meeting will be held as a result of an understanding reached during the recent visit to Dushanbe by the Afghan foreign minister.

However, no exact date has yet been set for the meeting which is due to be held in Kabul and will be of "a brief and preliminary character", the sources said. Tajik Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmanov plans to discuss with the Afghan president the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and the soonest possible return home of Tajik refugees.

The release of Russian servicemen held hostage in Afghanistan must also be discussed.

Asadulloyev on Situation Following Border Guard Attack

PM2708085393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Igor Sukhanov report: "Tajikistan: Gunmen and Mojahedin Again Threatening War"]

[Excerpts] Russian border guard posts on the Tajik-Afghan border came under fire from Tajik territory in the rear of the border guard posts twice in the last 24 hours. According to a report from the Russian Border Guard Troops Press Center, three servicemen were wounded. The attacks were carried out in the sector of the 8th border guard post and at the junction of the territory covered by the 12th and 13th border guard posts of the Pyandzh border guard detachment. The attackers used firearms and grenade launchers.

An official statement by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Russian Federation border troops, was disseminated 24 August. [passage omitted]

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has gotten in contact with Dushanbe. Nasrullo Asadulloyev, chairman of the Republic of Tajikistan Council of Ministers, was on the line:

"Life in Tajikistan is normal, but the atmosphere of constant danger coming from the direction of the Afghan border remains. What we need is peace in order to ensure that life here is normal and full. After all, the cotton harvest has started. The republic is preparing to celebrate Tajikistan's second Independence Day anniversary 8-10 September. A prestigious international forum, 'Tajiks of the World,' is under way in Dushanbe, having brought together our fellow countrymen from all over the world. The domestic political situation is also stabilizing: In the near future two new political parties will be registered—the People's Party of Tajikistan and a party which unites the republic's businessmen. The country's leadership is making every effort to ease military tension on the border by peaceful means. A meeting between E. Rakhmanov and Afghan President B. Rabbani is planned in the next few days, during which ways of overcoming the armed confrontation will be discussed, as well as the problems of handing over hostages and of Tajik refugees on Afghan territory. Surely new military actions on the border will hinder this process."

Tajik Radio Reports Signing of Border Agreement

LD2508204693 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is fully under the control of Russian border guards. Commanders of the border guards are taking all measures to stabilize the situation. With this aim, at one of the posts of the Moskovskiy rayon border detachment the commanders had an official meeting with representatives of Kozi Kabir, commander of the 55th infantry division of the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan.

A KHOVAR information agency correspondent learned this from the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

Mutual agreement was reached at the meeting and a protocol agreement was signed on undertakings by the two sides on protection and reinforcement of the border which is of great importance. It stresses that Afghanistan will ensure the security of the Tajik- Afghan border in an area from the inhabited region of Aykhanum to (Yatintosh), a distance of more than 100 km.

At the same time it was stressed that the two sides will not allow legal or illegal interference in the internal affairs of each other. In the event of the violation of the state border by the persons of one of the states, the sides will undertake measures to arrest and officially hand them over to the border guard representatives. For this purpose, the place and method of establishing contacts between the representatives of the border guards were specified, a fact which is no doubt of great importance.

We remind you that Tajik territory was previously shelled from the area under the control of that division, with armed men and military equipment crossing over and provocations committed against the border guards.

The population of the Tajik border areas support this document and hope that Afghanistan will strictly observe its obligations and that the issues pertaining to the borders of the two states will be resolved through peaceful means.

Tension Persists on Afghan Border as Troops Rebuild

PM2608130793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by A. Khodzhayev and B. Aramov from Tajikistan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has stabilized somewhat in the last few days. Admittedly, armed groups have attempted to break through the border in the Pyandzh Border Detachment sector and in the 8th and 12th Border Post areas. These attempts were decisively intercepted through the joint actions of the Russian Border Troops, the 21st Division, and subunits of the Tajikistan National Security Committee Border Troops Administration. Despite tentative dialogue between the two neighboring countries and the efforts of Russian diplomats, it seems that there has been no definitive letup in the strong-arm pressure being exerted on the border troops.

On the border things are actually calming down. But this does not mean that the tension is lessening. Border post details are carrying out repair work, and fortifications are being restored right along the border. But the men always have their fingers on the trigger.

Russian Military Counterintelligence Successes Reported

PM2708105393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 3

[Colonel Yuriy Soldatenko report: "Invisible Front on the Pyandzh River. Hundreds of Weapons and Rounds of Ammunition Returned by Russian Military Counterintelligence Agents to Army Depots in Tajikistan"]

[Text] Murgay-Pyandzh-Khorog—Bullets fired by bandits and subversives from the neighboring state are not the only danger faced by Russian soldiers in Tajikistan. Here, on the banks of the Pyandzh River, another front has been opened, but here the battle is waged not by motorized riflemen or tank troops but by military counterintelligence agents. And they have their work cut out.

"Whereas during the whole of last year there were approximately 200 attempts to talk Russian servicemen on military service in Tajikistan into betraying their motherland, as well as cases of bribery, blackmail, or involvement in drugs trafficking, this year there are 15 or more such incidents every week," Colonel Oleg Artemyev, chief of the Russian Forces in Tajikistan military counterintelligence section, told me.

Russian counterintelligence agents have to deal with a professional adversary. In the Afghan provinces bordering on Tajikistan, 17 special camps have been established by the so-called "Committee for Refugee Safety" run by the "Tajik Government in Exile." At these subversion bases more than 4,000 mercenaries, who have been specially picked to carry out sabotage operations, are being trained under the direction of mojahedin instructors and "advisers" from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Pakistan, and Iran.

Just recently the high level of professional expertise displayed by military intelligence agents Major N. Aleksandrov, Captain I. Chernov, Senior Lieutenant A. Zachinyayev, and their comrades-in-arms has led to the thwarting of a number of attempts to recruit Russian soldiers and officers.

Another obstacle has been placed in the way of those wishing to "earn a fast buck" by stealing weapons and munitions from their units. During one recent counterintelligence operation, 120 shoulder-fired antitank rocket grenade launchers, 920 different kinds of hand grenades, 17 boxes of ammunition, and even an automatic gun for a BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle, all of which had been stolen from military depots at an earlier date, were recaptured.

Islamic Rebirth Party Members Sentenced to Death

LD2608132393 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The collegium of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan under the chairmanship of Davlatov, member of the Supreme Court, has concluded

examination of the criminal case of Ajik Aliyev, also known as Mullah Ajik, member of the presidium of the Islamic Rebirth Party, and members of the same party, Rajab Atoulloev and Muhammadyor Nizomov, on 25 August.

Ajik Aliyev is accused, in accordance with the articles of the criminal code of the Republic, of high treason; calling for the overthrow of state structures by means of force; organizing robbery, terrorist attacks, and mass killing; and has been sentenced to death.

Atoulloev and Nizomov were sentenced to three years imprisonment. They will spend their terms of imprisonment in the strict regime prisons.

Official Announces Creation of People's Party

LD2608221293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Aug—A people's party [narodnaya partiya] is being created in Tajikistan. Abdulmajid Dostiyev, chairman of its organizing committee and first deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, announced here today that the aim of the new organization is to unite those forces favoring the building of a law-governed, secular, and democratic state in Tajikistan, a gradual transition to a market economy, and the provision of social and legal guarantees for people.

Only one political organization is registered in the republic at present—the Communist Party of Tajikistan. It is well known that the Islamic Rebirth Party and certain other organizations and movements that were operating here until recently were banned by the republic's Supreme Court.

Turkmenistan

Agreements With Georgia Bring Relations to 'New Level'

AU2508140493 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 19 Aug 93 p 1

["Communique on the Results of the Visit by Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the Georgian Parliament-Head of State, to Turkmenistan" issued in Ashkhabad on 17 August]

[Text] On 17 August 1993, at the invitation of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, was in Ashgabat on an official friendly visit.

During the course of the visit, a wide range of political and economic problems of mutual interest were discussed. Particular attention was given to the prospects for developing bilateral relations. The heads of state pointed out the desire of their peoples to expand in the future comprehensive relations on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality, friendship, and mutually advantageous cooperation.

The heads of state gave a high appraisal of the treaty on friendship and cooperation and other intergovernmental agreements that had been signed. It was pointed out that these documents would create a firm treaty-legal basis for the strong development of a whole range of relations between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Georgia.

During an exchange of opinions, it was emphasized that the deepening of cooperation between Turkmenistan and Georgia would, on account of its significance, extent beyond the boundaries of bilateral relations and contribute to the development of mutually advantageous relations between regions.

The sides expressed their great sorrow that the shedding of blood and conflicts were continuing in the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, and other regions that were endangering international peace. The heads of state supported the speediest resolution of these conflicts by peaceful means and the fact that they should be guided by the principles of territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs; they pointed out that priority be given to political mechanisms in the matter of their resolution. It was said that the trend toward a peaceful resolution of the Abkhazian conflict would have a positive influence on universal stabilization.

The sides emphasized the significance of the agreements reached between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Georgia that would create a solid basis for bringing the traditional friendship between the Georgian and Turkmen peoples to a new level.

During the talks, there was a thorough discussion of the initiative presented by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov concerning the holding of a meeting of the heads of states that had been formed on the territory of the former USSR in Ashgabat in October of this year. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, highly appraised this idea and emphasized that such a meeting would enable them to create new foundations for mutually advantageous cooperation between the new independent states on a consultative basis. It was emphasized that the leadership of the Republic of Georgia was ready to contribute to the full implementation of the initiative of the Turkmen president.

Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, expressed his thanks for the warm reception and invited Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov to visit the Republic of Georgia at a time convenient to him. [Dated] Ashgabat, 17 August 1993.

Armenia

U.S. C-130 Remains Found, 'Experts' To Arrive 27 Aug

NC2608163893 Yerevan SNARK in English 1259 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, August 26 (SNARK)—The remains of the American C130 war plane were found at the suburbs of the Sasnashen village, at the northern-west of Armenia.

On August 4 the residents of the Talin region, Armenia, told the employees of the U.S. Embassy in Armenia on the place of the accident.

Today Lady Lorna Burg from USA recognized among the remains the metallic label with the name of her brother, second class pilot Archie T. Burg.

Tomorrow, on August 27, the group of experts from the Hawaii military base is coming to Yerevan to continue searches. The BBC journalists are making documentary film about the sad event of the cold war. The U.S. Embassy in Armenia appealed to the people to help in the investigation to be aware of the fate of the following pilots: Paul Duncan, George Petrochillos, Arthur Mello, Leroy Price, Robert Oshinsky, James Ferguson, Joel Fields, Harold Kamps, Jerald Madjiakomo, Klement Mankins, Jerald Madeiros and Robert Moore.

Colonel Troyan told SNARK that some witnesses saw several pilots with parachutes. There is a hope to save them. The representatives of the former KGB and GRU [sentence as received].

SNARK knows that it isn't the only one plane which was fired over Armenia. In 1958, not far from the Turkish border the C118 war plane of the U.S. Air Forces was fired, 9 crew members were handed in the USA through Iran.

Azerbaijani Attacks on Border Detailed

NC2608150993 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 0902 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 25 Aug (ARMENPRES) [dateline as received]—The situation is tense on Armenia's southern border. An exchange of fire took place in the Gorisskiy defense zone last night.

A large concentration of troops and military hardware has been observed in Kubatlinskiy Rayon near the Armenian village of Shurnukh. Some 150 Azerbaijani trucks took ammunition and troops into the Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons.

This morning, the enemy attacked the defensive positions around Kornidzor in Gorisskiy Rayon from Kubatlinskiy Rayon. The attack was repulsed.

The border areas of Kapanskiy Rayon were shelled from Zangelanskiy Rayon at about the same time. Large enemy forces tried to breach the Kapanskiy Rayon's defenses near the village of Srashen. According to Armenian Defense Ministry reports, three military planes took part in the attack and dropped bombs on the Armenian positions. The attack was repulsed. At midday, the Azerbaijanis started shelling the area using long-range artillery. At 1600, the Armenian fighters returned fire in an attempt to silence the enemy's firing positions. Casualties are being determined.

The border positions in Megrinskiy Rayon came under tank and artillery fire from Zangelanskiy Rayon. Megri and Arasan were shelled from Grad launchers. There were no casualties.

Vardenisskiy Rayon was shelled from the Omar Mountain pass. One Armenian border guard was killed and another was wounded.

Around the same time, the enemy based in Tauzskiy Rayon fired four tank salvos on Nerkinkarmiragpyur in Tavushskiy Rayon. There were no casualties.

Further on Attacks

NC2608171993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1259 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Will the Corridor Between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan Through the Territory of Armenia Be Opened?"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Yerevan, August 26 (SNARK)—Azeris' pressing attempts to make the situation at the southern borders of Armenia are going on.

It's the second day of hard clashes at the border of the Zangezur [southern Armenia] region which separates Nakhichevan from Azerbaijan.

Armenian Defense Department reports on forces concentration on the Azerbaijani territories at the border with Armenia. Azerbaijani war planes, tanks, military machines, "Grad" launches are being used in the actions.

The specialists are of the opinion that these actions can be connected with the Turkish attempts to persuade Azerbaijani leadership to begin the military operation on opening corridor between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan through the territory of Armenia in response to the Karabakh forces' offensive.

Meanwhile, the Armenian Defense Department told SNARK that yesterday evening and last night the frontier posts at the northern-east of the Republic were attacked but the Azeris attacks were repelled.

Tension Subsides on Border, in Karabakh

NC2608203393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] After two days of tense exchange of fire, the tension on Armenia's border subsided in the early

morning of 26 August. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the enemy, having received severe blows from the defense forces in Kapanskiy, Gorisskiy, and Megrinskiy Rayons, did not resort to new infringements.

An Azerbaijani battalion in Kedabekskiy Rayon tried to launch an offensive against the village of Tara in Vardenisskiy Rayon yesterday evening. The attack was repulsed within a brief period. There were no casualties on our side.

At around the same time, an exchange of grenade and machine gun fire took place between the Azerbaijani armed formations in Kedabekskiy Rayon and the fighters at the border post near the village of Vahan in Krasnoselskiy Rayon. Here too, the Armenian side had no casualties.

The same source reported that no border incidents were registered today.

The situation in Karabakh:

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army headquarters reported that a certain reduction in tension is being observed at the southern battle fronts, though the Azerbaijani side violates the cease-fire agreement by periodically opening fire on the position of the Karabakh forces.

In political observers' opinion, these violations could be explained by the antagonism existing between various political forces on the eve of the referendum to be held in Azerbaijan on 29 August. Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and Acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev said pointedly at the recent National Assembly session that the Azerbaijani Army is made up of extremely politicized military detachments that are serving various political groupings and organizations.

It is being reported from Stepanakert that a new concentration of Azerbaijani troops and military hardware is being observed along the entire southern border of NKR.

Government's Reaction to UN, Russian Concerns Viewed

PM2708103593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Vitaliy Strugovets report: "Everyone Is Thinking About Dividends. Azerbaijan Prefers Political Ones, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Territorial Ones"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The situation on the diplomatic "front" is just as complex [as the general operational situation]. Successful combat operations by the Armenian armed formations have led to a sharp shift in public opinion in Azerbaijan's favor. Following in the footsteps of the United Nations and the United States, Russia has also expressed concern at the development of the situation in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone. Special Envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, who has arrived in Baku as the Russian Federation president's personal representative and leader of the mediatory mission for a peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, stressed in a conversation with Geydar Aliyev that the advance of the Armenian Armed Forces into Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons in Azerbaijan, which are situated outside Nagorno-Karabakh proper, has no motivation for this type of action behind it.

The Armenian leadership has so far not reacted in any way to the statements by the UN Security Council and Russia. Why is this?

In our opinion, there are two reasons. First of all, Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, as we can see, are convinced that this will go no further than declarations and statements. At least as regards Russia, which is linked to Armenia by the Treaty on Collective Security. Second, assistance from the world Armenian diaspora, which is no longer restricted to supplies of weapons and ammunition, must be "exploited" [otrabotat] somehow. According to reports circulated by the "LOGOTIP-KP" agency, the ranks of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic armed formations have recently been swelled by over 100 Syrians of Armenian origin. Furthermore, citizens of Lebanon, Iran, and Egypt are already fighting there.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh Officials Cancel Talks

LD2608203693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 26 TASS—Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh officials canceled their meeting scheduled for Thursday [26 August] because of disagreements over its venue, Manvel Sarkisyan, Nagorno-Karabakh ambassador to Armenia, said.

Sarkisyan said that late on Wednesday the sides agreed to hold a meeting near the district centre of Agdam. But on Thursday the Azeri side changed its mind and began insisting on moving the meeting to Fizuli, which caused protests from the other side.

He said, however, that both sides maintain contacts with each other by phone.

Kazimirov To Visit Conflict Zone, Meet Karabakh Officials

NC2608173693 Baku TURAN in English 1345 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 26 (TURAN)—This noon helicopter with Special Ambassador of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russian Vladimir Kazimirov and official

representatives of Baku on the board will leave for Imishli region of Azerbaijan. Then from that place Baku representatives and Russian diplomat will leave for the zone of battle actions, where they are to meet with the representatives of community of Nagorno-Karabakh. TURAN agency had been informed about by the press-service of the presidents staff.

Organization of such a meeting was under the question till the last moment. Yesterday evening Vladimir Kazimirov have been holding unsuccessful phone talks with Yerevan and Khankendi [Stepanakert] about organization of this meeting. Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh did not wish to hold the meeting as "representatives of the community".

Speaking to V. Kazimirov August 24 acting President of the Republic Geydar Aliyev said: "We held contacts with Khankendi [Stepanakert] not to allow escalation of military activities. The talks don't mean recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh".

V. Kazimirov in his turn stressed, that "Moscow is concerned about (?heightened) military activity of Karabakh Armenians. We don't see [word indistinct] motivation [words indistinct] party."

Situation in Fizuli Region Described

LD2708110393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Asker Ibragimov and Viktor Shulman for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 27 TASS—The situation in the Fizuli region of Azerbaijan continues to be extremely complicated. According to the preliminary information, only six out of 72 villages of the region are relatively controlled by the local authorities. National army units left the region for fear of an encirclement and now they are deployed along the highway connecting the administrative centres of Fizuli and Imishli.

The local population—some 100,000 people—are concentrated near the border with Iran, mostly in the township of Goradiz. According to unofficial information, some people have already crossed the border into Iran. Those who have remained in Azerbaijan are in a lamentable situation: Water and bread are scarce, the threat of an epidemic has become a reality in conditions of hot weather.

A group of medics from Baku will be sent to the area to help the refugees.

Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's ambassador at large and head of the mediation mission for the peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, visited the area on Thursday [26 August] to see for himself the grim state of affairs in the Fizuli region and the entire south-western part of Azerbaijan after yet another massive offensive by Armenian Armed Forces.

Defense Ministry Details Armenian Attacks

NC2608195493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique is as follows:

The Armenian Armed Forces are trying to create tension in several areas in Azerbaijan that do not have common borders with Karabakh. Uninterrupted clashes have been continuing in several areas in Zangelanskiy Rayon, which are on Armenia's border. The clashes in that rayon began yesterday. Yukhary Yemezli and Ashagy Yemezli in Zangelanskiy Rayon were fired on from Kapanskiy Rayon in Armenia with Grad rocket launchers and artillery guns last night.

The enemy units advanced from Armenia and attacked Kollukyshlak and Shayifly this morning. The attacks were repulsed.

The border areas in Kedabekskiy Rayon were intensely fired on from Armenia with various types of arms last night.

The situation in Kubatlinskiy Rayon has been tense. Fighting is continuing around [place-names indistinct] and Gylabird.

Defense Ministry Denies Attacking Red Cross Convoy

LD2608135993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baku August 26 TASS—The Azeri Defence Ministry has denied reports by the International Red Cross Committee about "intentional shelling of one of the vehicles with a Red Cross emblem."

The incident "occurred on August 23 in Armenia on the road between Krasnoselk and Berda along the border with Azerbaijan. One of the shells fired by the Azeri side at the convoy, unfortunately, caused a death of a passenger in one of the trucks," the statement issued by the Red Cross Committee said.

The ministry said that incoming reports show that on August 23 not a single case of shooting was registered on the territory of the Kazakh, Tauz, Akstafa or Kedabek districts of Azerbaijan through which the road passes. Gunfire was reported at the end of the day when Armenian militants fired at Azeri posts in the village of Kavdar. As a result, one Azeri soldier was wounded, the ministry said.

Aliyev Calls For Release of Hostages

NC2608205893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Text" of statement by Geydar Aliyev in Baku; date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] Azerbaijan has been subjected to Armenia's aggression for more than five years. The gradual intensification of the aggression has led to the occupation, burning, and destruction of hundreds of our cities, towns, and residential areas by the enemy. Thousands of people have been killed in the merciless war. Many are missing. Hundreds of thousands of our citizens have lost their homes and become refugees in their own homeland as a result of Armenia's undeclared war against Azerbaijan.

The Armenian occupationists have taken unarmed people hostage and tortured them. According to the information we have received up to 1 August, 2,804 Azerbaijani citizens have been counted missing or taken hostage. Some 320 of them are women, 71 are children, and 173 are elderly people.

The effort to get Azerbaijan's citizens released have not yielded one result so far. That shows that Armenia ignores the norms of international law and grossly violates the acts of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of war victims. Many facts have been established confirming that prisoners are held under unfavorable conditions, they are subjected to physical and moral [word indistinct], and their labor is exploited.

Azerbaijan has supported the settlement of many of the problems right from the beginning of the dispute. It has made it known that it is prepared to find a political solution to remove the armed dispute at the present time.

One of the prerequisites for the peaceful settlement of the dispute is the release of Azerbaijan's citizens who have been taken hostage and the return of the prisoners. Only Azerbaijan has drawn up draft documents in accordance with the agreements that were reached on the fate of the prisoners and hostages in the past. They have been highly assessed by the international organizations. Regrettably, the Armenian side has put forward various excuses to avoid signing those documents.

Reiterating its respect for accepted humanitarian norms and moving with goodwill, Azerbaijan has unconditionally released 29 Armenians through the International Red Cross Committee. Drawing attention to that, I wish to say that I hope that the Armenian side will take similar steps and move to release the hostage Azerbaijani citizens and support the effort to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.

We are also ready to act with goodwill in the future. In view of that, we hope that the Armenian side will take similar steps on humanitarian issues. It is expected to do so not only by Azerbaijan's people but also by the entire world. I am confident that the appropriate steps to be taken by Armenia on the matter will restore confidence between our peoples and form a basis for stability in the region and mutual agreement between the two neighboring countries.

Elchibey, Turkish Official Discuss Referendum

NC2608160093 Baku TURAN in English 1345 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 26 (TURAN)—Yesterday Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Ozden Sanberk in Nakhichevan village of Keleki. After the end of the talks, Sanberk left for Baku and at 22 oclock Chairman of Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev has received him. The meeting was held behind the closed doors.

Today early in the morning O. Sanberg left Baku for Nakhichevan, where he would again meet with Abulfaz Elchibey.

As press-secretary of President Elchibey Arif Aliyev informed TURAN agency, the goal of Turkish diplomats visit was to persuade Geydar Aliyev not to hold referendum on confidence to Elchibey in this situation. This morning radio of Ankara confirmed this information too.

Referendum Preparations Obstructed in Nakhichevan

NC2608204693 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 0600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The preparations for holding a referendum on confidence in President Abulfaz Elchibey are being completed in the Republic. However, in some places there is a lack of confidence in the National Assembly's decision on this issue.

According to an AZERTAC report, in Nakhichevan's Ordubadskiy Rayon importance is not being given to the decision of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Electoral Commission and thus no election districts are being created there.

However, thousands of electors in Ordubadskiy Rayon want to take part in the referendum. This is confirmed by the cables and letters arriving in relevant state organs. Some individuals are resorting to force, deception, and other means to prevent the people from freely participating in the referendum.

The violation of the rights of more than 21,000 eligible voters in Ordubadskiy Rayon by a handful of provocateurs is tantamount to challenging the laws of Azerbaijan.

The preparations of the voters' (?lists) and bulletin forms in connection with the referendum on the Republic's president are also being completed.

TV, Radio Station Attacked

LD2708105793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 27 TASS—Unidentified people mounted an armed attack on the TV and radio broadcasting station in the city of Nakhichevan overnight. The station broadcasts programmes of Azeri, Russian and local television to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic (constituent republic of Azerbaijan), AZERTAC news agency learnt at the republican Communications Ministry on Friday.

Masked attackers pointing weapons at station staff members, took the main units of transmitters. As a result, the station stopped its broadcasts completely.

Measures are now taken to restore the operation of the ransacked station. The militia of the Nakhichevan Republic started an investigation into circumstances of the attack.

There are grounds to believe that the attack was prompted by the forthcoming referendum (on August 29) of confidence in Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey who now lives in the mountain Nakhichevan village of Keleki.

Procedures for Referendum Outlined

NC2608171093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1328 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 26.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Citizens of Azerbaijan will participate in the referendum on confidence to President Abulfaz Elchibey on August, 29, ASSA-IRADA was told at the central commission on the referendum. The voting will be held at 84 electoral districts since 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. The preliminary results will be known next day so it means whether the referendum took place or not. The referendum will be considered valid if more than 50 per cent out of the total number of people having the suffrage will participate in it. The final results will be known after receiving all the protocols on the results on voting from different electoral districts by the central commission. So it will be within 10 days after referendum. The refugees from the districts, occupied by Armenian Armed Forces will vote on special lists at the place of their living in the day of referendum.

Anti-Gumbatov Rally Continues in Lenkoran

NC2608160793 Baku TURAN in Azeri 1345 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 26 (TURAN)—Dilruba Dzhamalova, head of the executive power of Lenkoran, in her talk with TURAN's correspondent, reported that a rally of citizens of southern regions of Azerbaijan had been going on for three days. According to her words, over 10,000 people are taking part in the rally. They demand that Alikram Gumbatov, who one month ago proclaimed the self-styled Talysh-Mugan Republic on the territory of seven southern regions of Azerbaijan, be made answerable. At the same time Gumbatov declared his independence from Baku.

As it was reported, three days ago clashes between armed supporters of Gumbatov and rally participants took place. During the clashes three persons were killed. The same day A. Gumbatov along with the group of his supporters has fled Lenkoran and hidden in local forests.

At present situation in this region is under the control of official authorities.

Deputy Minister Demoted; Criminal Proceedings Begun

NC2608193193 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televizyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] With a decree of the Chairman of Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev, who is executing the powers of the Republic's president, Major General Vakhid Abdulluoglu Musayev has been demoted to a lower rank and relieved of his post as deputy defense minister of the Republic for abusing his powers and thus obstructing the execution of the Azerbaijani National Assembly's 17 August 1993 decision on the situation in Lenkoranskiy, Astarinskiy, Massalskiy, (Devik), Yardymlinskiy, Dzhalilabadskiy, and (Gulesular) Rayons, and for being responsible for the use of arms against the peaceful population and for the deaths of people.

According to information obtained from the Republic's prosecutor general, criminal proceedings have been instituted against Vakhid Musayev.

Former Defense Minister Demands Aliyev's Resignation

NC2608155493 Baku TURAN in English 1345 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Rakhim Gaziyev Demanded Geydar Aliyev's Resignation at Ganja Rally"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, August 26 (TURAN)—Yesterday Former Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev addressed Ganja rally of Geydar Aliyev's adversaries.

As press-centre of the Popular [People's] Front of Azerbaijan (PFA) reported, Rakhim Gaziyev demanded resignation of Geydar Aliyev, "as a person who is unable to take Azerbaijan out of military and political crisis".

Earlier Geydar Aliyev strongly criticized R. Gaziyev, accusing him of anti-state activity and ties with ex-president Ayaz Mutalibov.

Maneuvering of Aliyev, People's Front Assessed

PM2608185593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1

[Petr Kirillov report under "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "It Would Appear That National Front of Azerbaijan Is Not Averse To Repeating 'Khodzhaly Scenario' for Geydar Aliyev"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Analyzing the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, I cannot resist the inviting analogies to the surrender of the city of Khodzhaly 18 months ago. Then a wide-scale assault by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's self-defense forces on Stepanakert coincided with attacks by the People's Front of Azerbaijan on President Ayaz Mutalibov. Khodzhaly fell, the Nagorno-Karabakh forces occupied it, and...predetermined Mutalibov's fate. At the same time—indirectly, of course—ensuring the transition of power to the People's Front. This, I repeat, was the case.

And today we have an attempt to repeat, this time for Geydar Aliyev, the "Khodzhaly scenario" for the resolution of internal political contradictions in Baku. Dzhebrail and Fizuli, and before them Agdam, are being abandoned without a fight.

But today the latest retreat is being linked in Stepanakert with the forthcoming referendum in Azerbaijan, and it is being assessed as an attempt by the People's Front, which has a strong influence among the troops, to weaken Aliyev's position. Presumably Stepanakert has not forgotten the powerful offensive by the Azerbaijani Army with which Abulfaz Elchibey marked his arrival in power, and it certainly does not intend to play any further into the hands of the People's Front.

Aliyev is subtly exploiting every opportunity for a preemptive strike against his political opponents. Especially since the People's Front's reputation is pretty well tarnished, and moreover, an ally in the person of the rebel Surat Guseynov is valuable. Ayaz Mutalibov did not have such support.

As a result of the political confrontation in Baku and the maneuvering of Stepanakert, a unique situation has been created for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which is objectively pushing the warring sides into searching for ways to direct talks.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Views Russian, U.S. Roles in Region

PM2608093093 London THE EUROPEAN in English 26-29 Aug 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by Roman Rollnick in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] A senior American official remarked recently that he could not understand why President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia chose to remain at home and "endeavour to run an anarchic country no better than a lunatic asylum" instead of taking a lucrative post at a top American university.

None the less, he is full of admiration for Shevardnadze, a man regarded in the West and at home as the "father of glasnost", who helped Mikhail Gorbachev bring an end to Soviet domination.

Yet it is precisely Shevardnadze's role in stripping the communists of power that has turned many nostalgic communists—from Russian generals, hardliners and Russian nationalists—against him, both at home in Georgia and across the border in Russia.

Everyone around Shevardnadze accuses Russia of fomenting the ethnic conflict in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and of backing the anti-Georgian rebels. Many, including American and European diplomats, worry that his hold on power is tenuous, that the anarchy in Georgia, where almost every male now carries a gun, is out of control.

The average monthly salary in Georgia has plunged to $5. The country has no government administration, police force or organised structures. There is 70 per cent unemployment and industrial production is down to ten per cent.

But as he travelled to Moscow this week to meet President Boris Yeltsin to shore up ceasefires in the two troubled regions and discuss the presence of Russian troops, he looked, during an exclusive interview with THE EUROPEAN, every bit the renowned elder statesman, a man in control. His remarks showed that he remains, as an American colleague once described him, one of the most artful diplomats of the 20th century.

In his office at the Georgian Parliament—once the Marxism-Leninism Institute in Tbilisi—Shevardnadze looked older and greyer. He was ready to upset the Russian generals by saying he sees a role for US military force in the Caucasus, and that he was quite willing to come to an agreement with Yeltsin on the presence of Russian troops in his country.

He refused to discuss the troops issue in detail. "I am not sure of the exact number of Russian troops here," he said. "Some have left and the process is continuing. But an agreement will determine the number that are deployed on Georgian territory and the (Russian) peacekeeping force is supposed to disengage the two sides."

In the seven wars across the Caucasus mountain nations, it is Russian weapons in the hands of the combatants which have wrought the killing and destruction.

Aware of this, Shevardnadze believes Russian policy is changing: "We think Russia is willing to resolve the conflict...and the new (Clinton) administration in Washington has a more realistic picture of what is going on in the region. They see the important role the Caucasus can play in the world, and they (Moscow and Washington) also realise that if we cannot achieve peace, a big fire is going to flare here."

Shevardnadze, who once ruled his native Georgia as a communist boss picked by the late KGB chief and Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, has been criticised by Georgian nationalists for being soft on Moscow. They want all

Russians out and condemn the ceasefire compromise whereby he agreed to pull many Georgian troops out of Abkhazia.

But he said: "Indeed, Russia has some ambitions in the region and different groups see these in different ways. Some of Russia's military people think they have strategic military interests. But President Yeltsin's perspective is that Russia's strategic interest is to have a strong, united Georgia with goodwill towards Russia."

He feels the bear has been less belligerent lately, and that the change he has noticed in Russian policy in recent weeks is due partly to western pressure, with calls from President Clinton and Helmut Kohl on Moscow to keep out of Abkhazia.

"On relations between the big powers, you have to consider one another's interests, and of course Russia considers the views of the U.S., Germany, etc. I know they spoke to President Yeltsin and supported us and I know it had a great impact and was very important," he said.

Shevardnadze said he had often visited the city of Sukhumi and that he had written personally to each of the leaders in the Group of Seven industrial powers: "I tried to explain to them the horrible picture of what is going on in our country. I got replies and some helped in specific ways.

"President Clinton said the U.S. would provide $30 million (Ecu26.6 million) of wheat. The EC is helping us. It is very important for us. Germany is helping us a great deal, providing us with Dm20 million (Ecu10 million) for food, and Dm30 million for agricultural aid."

He said he did not see a "competition' in the Caucasus between the U.S. and Russia. "Both Russia and the United States now have to study how to co-poerate in different regions. It is only out of this co-operation and the way it is done that the new relationship between the powers will develop."

But he is also capable of publicly snubbing the Russians. At a football match against Linfield of Northern Ireland last week—the biggest public event here in months—he invited the American and German ambassadors to watch with him.

The Russian was left out in the cold, and Shevardnadze joked: "I only invited those two ambassadors because they pledged one goal each for our side. As for the Russian ambassador, no such promise was made.

Opposition Attacks Shevardnadze-Yeltsin Agreement

PM2608133593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov and Petr Karapetyan: "Russia and Georgia Ready To Sign 'Big' Treaty. But Tbilisi Opposition Regards Results of Moscow Meeting as a Slide Back Into 'Big Brother's Embrace'."]

[Text] A large-scale treaty between Russia and Georgia will be signed in September in Tbilisi—this is the principal result of the talks held between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze.

This breakthrough in Russian-Georgian relations only became possible once the process for achieving a peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz conflict had stabilized. At the end of the talks, Eduard Shevardnadze expressed his satisfaction that "fairly confident first steps have been taken to achieve a cease-fire and create conditions to finally settle the conflict in Abkhazia." Vladislav Ardzinba had no cause to be displeased with the meeting with Boris Yeltsin either. Having enshrined the military status quo with Russian help, we must suppose that Georgia and Abkhazia will concentrate on looking for ways to achieve a political status quo and will eventually embark on face-to-face talks.

The Georgian opposition regards the results of the Moscow meeting as a slide back into "big brother's embrace," and on swinging terms, moreover. As always, erstwhile Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani was scathing: "I am amazed by the relations between Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Yeltsin. One gets the impression that the latter is controlling Shevardnadze. I support only an equal economic union with Russia. What worries me most of all is my country's future, I do not want Georgia to have to depend on anybody or be a puppet on a string."

It is not entirely clear how the kind of strong political, credit and financial, cultural, and other ties which are approved of all over the world could lead to a loss of Georgian sovereignty. Nevertheless, Kitovani has thrown a stone into the pond and caused ripples. The opposition has proclaimed a victory in Georgia for the "politics of the stomach"; the radicals are claiming that we are again going cap in hand to Russia "in order to stuff ourselves, to cram our bellies, and nobody is interested in freedom." Former Premier Tengiz Sigua is also fanning the flames by warning against a possible quick Georgian entry into the economic union of CIS countries: "This might sound the death knell for independent Georgia."

All the symptoms of a new wave of radicalism are in evidence in Georgia. Some parliamentarians are reaffirming their readiness to criticize every step taken by the executive branch whether or not they have grounds for doing so, but they are offering nothing constructive in return.

Prime Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador Brown

LD2508180493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Otar Patsatsia, prime minister of the Republic of Georgia, has met Kent Brown, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America

to Georgia. The ambassador expressed interest in the process of forming the new cabinet of ministers and how relations between the two countries would go on now that economic and financial contacts have already been established.

Otar Patsatsia stressed that all contacts would, of course, be maintained no matter how the new cabinet is formed. Answering Mr. Brown's question on the situation in Samegrelo, the prime minister answered that he supported a conciliatory policy and that life itself dictated unity and the construction of a new, democratic Georgia together.

Shevardnadze Favors Retaining Post of Deputy Premier

LD2508113893 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1055 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 Aug—An IBERIA correspondent has learned that the main issue during current political consultations which are discussing the composition of a new Cabinet of Ministers, is the institution of deputy prime minister. The head of state is in favor of preserving this post, while opposition political parties are against it.

Heated debates are continuing.

Tripartite Commission Monitors Withdrawals From Abkhazia

LD2608124193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 26 Aug—An IBERIA correspondent was told at the press center of the headquarters of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia that today, according to the Sochi agreement, the tripartite commission is to monitor the withdrawal of military units and materiel from the Abkhaz region.

Yesterday, at the tripartite commission meeting, the Abkhaz side suddenly refused to release prisoners.

According to the agreement, on 27 August, the two sides were to exchange prisoners following the principle of everyone for everyone.

It is noteworthy that the Georgian side has already released every prisoner. In this connection, the Abkhaz side will let us Georgians know its decision today by 1500 [1100 GMT].

Representatives Criticize Russia, Abkhazia

LD2608160793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Georgian Armed Forces Press Center in Abkhazia gave us the following piece of information:

According to the agreement achieved in Sochi, temporary reinforced control groups are to be deployed at the Russian border [with Georgia] as well as at the Psou [river dividing Russia from Abkhazia] and the Enguri Rivers.

Today, on 26 August, Georgian representatives of the Joint Commission made a statement saying that the Abkhaz and Russian sides had been delaying resolving this issue since the beginning. Georgian [words indistinct] have been in Gagra for several days now, waiting for the issue to be resolved. The first steps toward fulfillment of the agreement have been made only today.

The Abkhaz side's allegations about the Georgian side not withdrawing its Army from the conflict zone is surprising. So far 3,430 servicemen have been withdrawn. Heavy equipment has been withdrawn for unloading to the location defined by the commission. The rumors about the presence of the Ukrainian battalion is also untrue.

It is also exasperating that the Abkhaz side refuses to hand prisoners of war over to us, despite the fact that there exists a signed document saying that the exchange of prisoners is to take place on 27 August. The Georgian side is refraining from making this breach publicly known lest it could hamper the process of peaceful negotiations.

Defense Minister on Need for Military Base Near Abkhazia

LD2708092693

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian at 0900 GMT on 26 August broadcasts a six-minute report in which the announcer reminds listeners that on 25 August, in the west Georgian town of Senaki, Georgian Defense Minister Georgiy Kapkapashvili held a meeting with Vakhtang Kobalia, head of unofficial military units and a major supporter of the former Georgian president.

An interview with Kapkapashvili is broadcast. Georgiy Kapkapashvili explains that the meeting was held in Senaki instead of Tbilisi in an attempt to avoid provocations. He is hopeful that he and Kobalia will "understand each other in all aspects regarding Abkhazia."

Kapkapashvili then discusses the Abkhaz issue. He says that apart from the Georgian Armed Forces, like the air force, marine units, and coast guards, which will be stationed in Abkhazia, a military base has to be created in the area of Rukhi town near the Enguri river. This base will consist of the best Georgian forces in constant combat readiness, "far from any political life," and mainly directed towards Abkhazia. This should be the "most powerful force" Georgia will be able to use in case anything against the "interests of Georgians and the interests of the Abkhaz population" takes place.

Kapkapashvili says that Vice Colonel [rank as heard] Tsitelashvili is entrusted with "forming the base" and First Deputy Defense Minister Datunashvili will work on its structure. According to Kapkapashvili, all of this cannot be done without the participation of Kobalia and his people since they are familiar with the area and the situation. He also says that the base will be completed with the equipment Kobalia "has in temporary use" and "the best people" from all parts of Georgia who "really care" for the interests of the Georgian state.

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